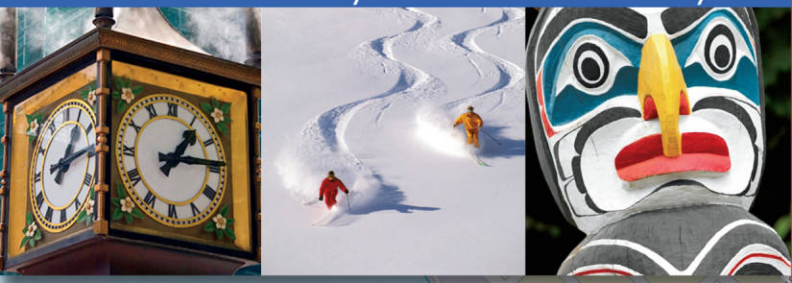
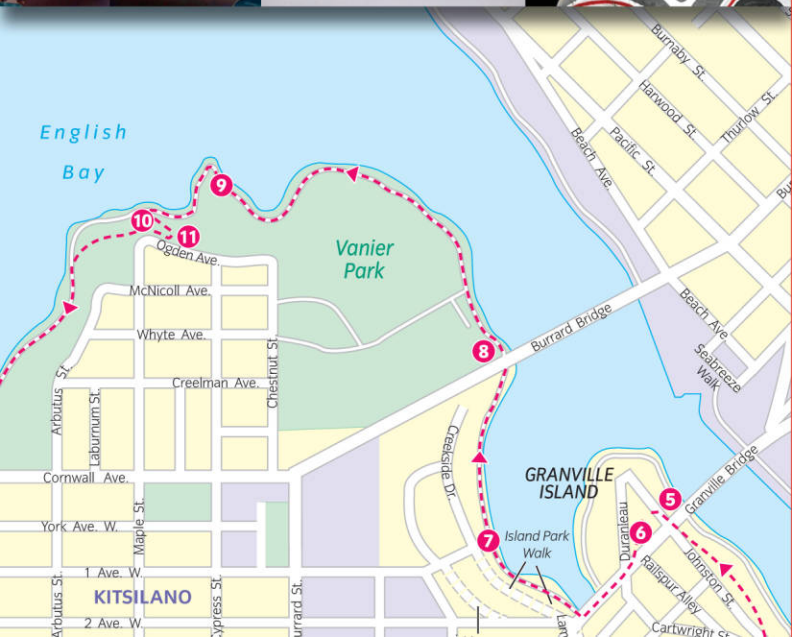
Frommer's

Vancouver & Whistler day BY day

17 Smart Ways to See the City





VISIT…

Frommer's®

Vancouver & Whistler

day BY day®

2nd Edition

by Remy Scalza

WILEY

John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Contents

13 Favorite Moments 1

1 The Best Full-Day Tours 7
The Best in One Day 8
The Best in Two Days 14
The Best in Three Days 18

2 The Best Special-Interest Tours 23
Vancouver Art & Architecture 24
Vancouver for Foodies 32
Vancouver with Kids 36
Rainy Day Vancouver 40

3 The Best Neighborhood Walks 43
Coal Harbour, Downtown & the West End 44
Gastown, Chinatown & Yaletown 52
Kitsilano, Granville Island & Olympic Village 60

4 The Best Shopping 65
Shopping Best Bets 68
Vancouver Shopping A to Z 69

5 The Great Outdoors 79
West Side Parks & Gardens 80
Stanley Park 84

6 The Best Dining 89
Dining Best Bets 92
Vancouver Restaurants A to Z 93

7 The Best Nightlife 99
Nightlife Best Bets 102
Vancouver Nightlife A to Z 103

8 The Best Arts & Entertainment 109
Arts & Entertainment Best Bets 112
Vancouver Arts & Entertainment A to Z 113

9 The Best Hotels 121
Hotel Best Bets 124
Vancouver Hotels A to Z 125

10 The Best Day Trips & Excursions 131
The Sea to Sky Highway 132
Victoria 136
Where to Stay & Eat 141

11 Whistler 143
Best of Whistler in Winter 144
Best of Whistler in Summer 150
Best of All-Weather Whistler 156
Shopping Best Bets 161
Whistler Shopping A to Z 162
Dining Best Bets 167
Whistler Dining A to Z 168
Hotel Best Bets 173
Whistler Hotels A to Z 174
Nightlife & Entertainment Best Bets 179
Whistler Nightlife & Entertainment 180

The Savvy Traveler 183
Before You Go 184
Getting There 189
Getting Around 190
Fast Facts 193
A Brief History 199
Toll-Free Numbers & Websites 200

Index 201

Published by:

John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

111 River St.
Hoboken, NJ 07030-5774

Copyright © 2012 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. Hoboken, New Jersey. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning or otherwise, except as permitted under Sections 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act, without either the prior written permission of the Publisher, or authorization through payment of the appropriate per-copy fee to the Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, 978/750-8400, fax 978/646-8600. Requests to the Publisher for permission should be addressed to the Permissions Department, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 111 River St., Hoboken, NJ 07030, 201/748-6011, fax 201/748-6008, or online at http://www.wiley.com/go/permissions.

Wiley and the Wiley logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of John Wiley & Sons, Inc., and/or its affiliates. Frommer's is a trademark or registered trademark of Arthur Frommer. Used under license. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. John Wiley & Sons Inc. is not associated with any product or vendor mentioned in this book.

ISBN 978-1-118-13347-7 (paper); 978-1-118-23856-1 (ebk); 978-1-118-26324-2 (ebk); 978-1-118-22501-1 (ebk)

Editor: Gene Shannon
Production Editor: M. Faunette Johnston
Photo Editor: Cherie Cincilla
Cartographer: Andy Dolan
Production by Wiley Indianapolis Composition Services

For information on our other products and services or to obtain technical support, please contact our Customer Care Department within the U.S. at 877/762-2974, outside the U.S. at 317/572-3993 or fax 317/572-4002.

Wiley also publishes its books in a variety of electronic formats. Some content that appears in print may not be available in electronic formats.

Manufactured in China

5 4 3 2 1

A Note from the Editorial Director

Organizing your time. That's what this guide is all about.

Other guides give you long lists of things to see and do and then expect you to fit the pieces together. The Day by Day guides are different. These guides tell you the best of everything, and then they show you how to see it *in the smartest, most time-efficient way*. Our authors have designed detailed itineraries organized by time, neighborhood, or special interest. And each tour comes with a bulleted map that takes you from stop to stop.

Hoping to explore Vancouver's abundance of first-rate galleries, dine in its excellent cafes and restaurants, or shop your way down Robson Street? Planning to drive the scenic Sea to Sky Highway or take in the flowers at Victoria's Butchart Gardens? Want to ski the slopes and hike the trails at Whistler? Whatever your interest or schedule, the Day by Days give you the smartest routes to follow. Not only do we take you to the top attractions, hotels, and restaurants, but we also help you access those special moments that locals get to experience—those "finds" that turn tourists into travelers.

The Day by Days are also your top choice if you're looking for one complete guide for all your travel needs. The best hotels and restaurants for every budget, the greatest shopping values, the wildest nightlife—it's all here.

Why should you trust our judgment? Because our authors personally visit each place they write about. They're an independent lot who say what they think and would never include places they wouldn't recommend to their best friends. They're also open to suggestions from readers. If you'd like to contact them, please send your comments our way at feedback@frommers.com, and we'll pass them on.

Enjoy your Day by Day guide—the most helpful travel companion you can buy. And have the trip of a lifetime.

Warm regards,

Kelly Regan, Editorial Director
Frommer's Travel Guides

About the Author

Remy Scalza (remyscalza.com) is an independent journalist and editor whose work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *National Geographic Traveler*, *The Washington Post,* and elsewhere. An inveterate traveler, who has logged years in South America, Australia, and Europe, he writes on subjects ranging from travel to business and science, with an emphasis on overlooked stories and unusual angles. Remy is also an award-winning photographer who shoots the images that accompany many of his stories. When not on assignment, he's day hiking near his home in Vancouver or playing classic Brazilian bossa nova on guitar. He can be found on Twitter @RemyScalza.

Advisory & Disclaimer

Travel information can change quickly and unexpectedly, and we strongly advise you to confirm important details locally before traveling, including information on visas, health and safety, traffic and transport, accommodations, shopping, and eating out. We also encourage you to stay alert while traveling and to remain aware of your surroundings. Avoid civil disturbances, and keep a close eye on cameras, purses, wallets, and other valuables.

While we have endeavored to ensure that the information contained within this guide is accurate and up-to-date at the time of publication, we make no representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the contents of this work and specifically disclaim all warranties, including without limitation warranties of fitness for a particular purpose. We accept no responsibility or liability for any inaccuracy or errors or omissions, or for any inconvenience, loss, damage, costs, or expenses of any nature whatsoever incurred or suffered by anyone as a result of any advice or information contained in this guide.

The inclusion of a company, organization, or website in this guide as a service provider and/or potential source of further information does not mean that we endorse them or the information they provide. Be aware that information provided through some websites may be unreliable and can change without notice. Neither the publisher nor author shall be liable for any damages arising herefrom.

Star Ratings, Icons & Abbreviations

Every hotel, restaurant, and attraction listing in this guide has been ranked for quality, value, service, amenities, and special features using a star-rating system. Hotels, restaurants, attractions, shopping, and nightlife are rated on a scale of zero stars (recommended) to three stars (exceptional). In addition to the star-rating system, we also use a kids icon to point out the best bets for families. Within each tour, we recommend cafes, bars, or restaurants where you can take a break. Each of these stops appears in a shaded box marked with a coffee-cup-shaped bullet .

The following **abbreviations** are used for credit cards:

AE	American Express	DISC	Discover	V	Visa
DC	Diners Club	MC	MasterCard		

Travel Resources at Frommers.com

Frommer's travel resources don't end with this guide. Frommer's website, **www.frommers.com**, has travel information on more than 4,000 destinations. We update features regularly, giving you access to the most current trip-planning information and the best airfare, lodging, and car-rental bargains. You can also listen to podcasts, connect with other Frommers.com members through our active-reader forums, share your travel photos, read blogs from guidebook editors and fellow travelers, and much more.

A Note on Prices

In the "Take a Break" and "Best Bets" sections of this book, we have used a system of dollar signs to show a range of costs for 1 night in a hotel (the price of a double-occupancy room) or the cost of an entree at a restaurant. Use the following table to decipher the dollar signs:

Cost	Hotels	Restaurants
$	under $100	under $10
$$	$100–$200	$10–$20
$$$	$200–$300	$20–$30
$$$$	$300–$400	$30–$40
$$$$$	over $400	over $40

How to Contact Us

In researching this book, we discovered many wonderful places—hotels, restaurants, shops, and more. We're sure you'll find others. Please tell us about them, so we can share the information with your fellow travelers in upcoming editions. If you were disappointed with a recommendation, we'd love to know that, too. Please write to:

Frommer's Vancouver & Whistler Day by Day, 2nd Edition
John Wiley & Sons, Inc. • 111 River St. • Hoboken, NJ 07030-5774
frommersfeedback@wiley.com

13 Favorite **Moments**

13 Favorite **Moments**

Previous page: Sunrise at Green Lake in Whistler, British Columbia.

Burrard Inlet
English Bay
False Creek
Stanley Park
Stanley Park Causeway
Kitsilano Beach Park
Vanier Park
VANCOUVER
Grey Rd.
Cornwall Ave.
4th Ave.
2nd Ave.
6th Ave.
Broadway West
12th Ave.
16th Ave.
King Edward Ave.
33rd Ave.
41st Ave.
49th Ave.
57th Ave.
SW Marine Dr.
Denman St.
Georgia St.
Nelson St.
Davie St.
Pacific St.
Burrard St.
Granville St.
Cambie St.
Powell St.
Hastings St.
Prior St.
Kingsway
Fraser St.
Main St.
Oak St.
MacDonald St.
Arbutus St.
Blenheim St.
West Blvd.
VanDusen Botanical Garden
Queen Elizabeth Park
1 Stanley Park Seawall
2 Granville Island Public Market
3 Gastown
4 UBC Museum of Anthropology
5 Raincity Grill
6 Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden
7 Denman Street
8 North Shore Mountains
9 South Granville Galleries
10 Vancouver Aquarium
11 Lighthouse Park
12 Whistler-Blackcomb
13 Victoria

People love Vancouver. Maybe it's the location, ringed by the Pacific Ocean and the snowcapped peaks of the Coast Mountains. Maybe it's the international vibe, fed by huge Asian and European communities. Maybe it's the restaurants, with their seafood-and-fresh-produce menus and stellar local wines. Or maybe credit goes to the city's planners, who made it dense, vibrant, walkable, and green—both literally and environmentally. Add in great shopping and a vibrant arts scene, and you've got one of North America's most visitor-friendly cities.

Granville Island Public Market is a year-round destination for foodies.

1 **Walk or ride the Stanley Park Seawall.** Stanley Park is the jewel of Vancouver. Located at the western end of the city's downtown peninsula, its 404 hectares (1,000 acres) are completely encircled by an 11km (6.5-mile) walking and biking trail that offers views of the city, sea, and mountains and gives access to secluded beaches, a totem pole park, swathes of old growth forest, and sites such as the Vancouver Aquarium. *See p 85,* 1.

2 **Browse the Granville Island Public Market.** A year-round feast of fresh local produce, seafood, artisanal cheeses, fresh bread, baked goods, spices, sweets, cookbooks, and all things culinary, all under one roof, just minutes from the city center. Foodies should plan on spending the day. *See p 33,* 1.

3 **Wander historic Gastown.** Just a few years ago, the narrow, cobbled streets of Vancouver's 140-year-old waterfront were filled with cheesy tourist shops and panhandlers. But a renaissance has transformed Gastown into a warren of hip bars and edgy, progressive restaurants. Still genuinely gritty in spots, Gastown nonetheless makes an ideal spot for a leisurely afternoon stroll and some patio dining. *See p 13,* 12.

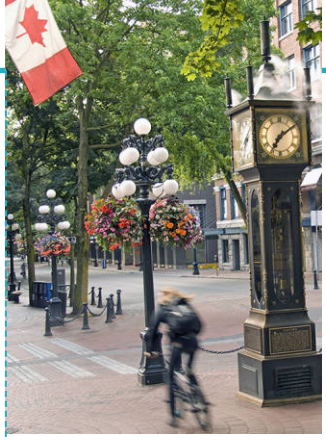
4 **View First Nations art at the UBC Museum of Anthropology.** Perched on a cliff above the Strait of Georgia, 20 to 30 minutes outside Vancouver's downtown, the Museum of Anthropology highlights the artistic traditions of British Columbia's First Nations peoples. Totem poles, feast dishes, canoes, blankets, jewelry, and monumental carvings—including

many by Haida master Bill Reid—are all displayed in an incredible building by BC's most influential architect, Arthur Erickson. *See p 16,* 6.

5 Dine on fresh regional food. I hope you're hungry. Fresh, local seafood, meats and produce, prepared with exacting skill in literally hundreds of restaurants, make Vancouver one of North America's culinary highlights, bar none. Flagship eateries including West and Raincity Grill emphasize healthy, flavorful dishes, often incorporating organic produce and sustainably caught fish. *See p 92.*

6 Spend a rainy day at the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden (or even a sunny one). Nestled behind high white walls in the heart of Vancouver's old Chinatown, this is one of the most authentic classical Chinese gardens outside of China, offering a peaceful lesson in yin-yang harmony. Everything is perfectly balanced, and it even seems to account for weather: On Vancouver's frequent rainy days, its central koi pond reflects the lowering skies while raindrops drip meditatively around its covered walkways. *See p 56,* 12.

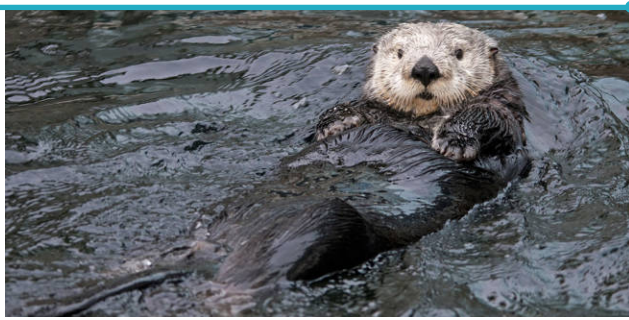
7 Sample ethnic cuisine on Denman Street. The presence of large immigrant communities from China, Korea, Japan, India, and elsewhere makes Vancouver a real hub of authentic and cheap ethnic cuisine. Denman Street (despite a quasi-touristy vibe) offers a dozen blocks of mom-and-pop joints serving everything from sushi, pho, and handmade ramen to bibimbap, souvlaki, and even perogies. *See p 48,* 11.



Gastown's cobbled streets have undergone a renaissance.

8 Hike the North Shore Mountains. Vancouver's proximity to real wilderness comes as a shock to many visitors. Just 15 minutes from downtown, the North Shore Mountains offer mile-high peaks, waterfalls and canyons, and dizzying views. Armchair outdoor-types can

Visitors can zip to the top of Grouse Mountain aboard the tram.



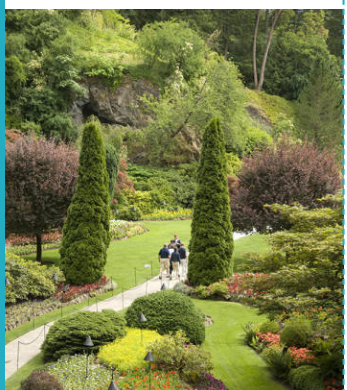
Feeding the adorable sea otters at the Vancouver Aquarium is a fun way to get up close with the city's marine life.

zip to the top of Grouse Mountain in a tram, while go-getters can explore Cypress and Seymour mountains on foot.

9 Gallery hop on South Granville Street (and beyond). Vancouver's "Gallery Row" boasts nearly two dozen contemporary art galleries within a few blocks, while other parts of downtown and the West Side are dotted with their own international-quality venues. *See p 31,* 23.

10 Feed the sea otters at the Vancouver Aquarium. Sure, the Vancouver Aquarium has beluga whales, sea lions, and Pacific white-sided dolphins, but is anything cuter than a sea otter? Visitors who reserve in advance can take part in a "Sea Otter Encounter" that includes time helping the animals' trainers at a feeding session. *See p 37,* 1.

The spectacular Butchart Gardens, just outside of Victoria, attracts close to one million visitors a year.



11 Picnic at Lighthouse Park. About a half-hour from downtown, in West Vancouver, Lighthouse Park gives you a good introduction to British Columbia's natural beauty, with some of the largest and oldest trees on the Lower Mainland, 10km (6.2 miles) of groomed hiking trails, and amazing views of the Point Atkinson lighthouse, Burrard Inlet, Vancouver Island, and the distant city. Bring a picnic lunch. *See p 15,* 2.

12 Ski, mountain bike, or hike the slopes at Whistler-Blackcomb. A 2-hour drive north of Vancouver, the Whistler-Blackcomb resort has been called the best ski resort in the world, and now it's claiming title to "world's best mountain bike resort" too. Whatever season you visit and whatever sport you choose, the mountains offer gorgeous panoramas—even if you just take the gondola and chairlift up to the mountaintop hiking trails. *See p 146–159.*

13 Take the ferry to Victoria. A 4-hour trip gets you to British Columbia's provincial capital, with its mix of 19th-century British architecture and traditions and 21st-century Pacific Rim culture. *See p 139.*

1 The Best **Full-Day Tours**

The Best in One Day

1. Stanley Park
2. Kingyo
3. English Bay Beach
4. False Creek Ferries
5. Granville Island
6. Yaletown
7. Granville Street
8. Robson Street
9. Vancouver Art Gallery
10. The Fairmont Hotel Vancouver
11. Olympic Cauldron at Canada Place
12. Gastown
13. Irish Heather

Previous page: Beautiful Queen Elizabeth Park is also home to the Bloedel Conservatory.

Thank Mother Nature, loggers, and the Canadian Pacific Railway for the fact that Vancouver began where it did—on a small, idyllic peninsula surrounded by water and mountains, and thus not predisposed to easy sprawl. Today the city does cover some 114 sq. km (44 sq. miles), but its urban core remains centered on the original settlements. The tour below will guide you through the compact and remarkably diverse downtown, from verdant Stanley Park—bigger and wilder than Manhattan's Central Park—to the quaint seaside shops and market at Granville Island and onto the museums and architectural gems of the city center. START: **Begin at the entrance to Stanley Park, on the corner of W. Georgia St. and Denman St. A paved waterfront promenade, known locally as the Stanley Park seawall, leads northwest into the park.**

1 ★★★ kids Stanley Park. Vancouver's urban park is a requisite first stop for visitors. The 404-hectare (1,000-acre) oceanside oasis of forests and beaches is brimming with opportunities for outdoor recreation (p 84) and family fun (p 37). At a minimum, rent a bike and circumnavigate the park's seawall, an 11km (6.5-mile) biking and walking trail with amazing views of the ocean, the city skyline, and the North Shore Mountains. The seawall also accesses some of the park's best sights, including the eight totem poles near Brockton Point and the lookout under the Lions Gate Bridge at Prospect Point. ***2 hr. or more, depending on how many of the park's attractions you check out. Main entrances are via W. Georgia St. & Beach Ave. ☎ 604/257-8400. www.vancouver.ca/parks/parks/stanley. Bike rentals available from C$10/hr. (C$30 half-day) at Spokes, 1798 W. Georgia St., at Denman St. ☎ 604/688-5141. www.spokesbicyclerentals.com. Bus: 19.***

Worked up an appetite already? Drop off the bike and set out on foot along Denman Street, a lively neighborhood of ethnic eateries near Stanley Park. What the mom-and-pop joints here lack in atmosphere they make up for in authenticity and value. To sample one of the latest culinary crazes to sweep Vancouver, stop by **2 Kingyo** for izakaya fare (decadent Japanese snacks like deep-fried tofu, marinated squid, and hearty rice bowls). ***871 Denman St. ☎ 604/608-1677. $$.***

3 ★★ English Bay Beach. Denman Street slices through the city's West End, dead-ending at English Bay Beach, the consummate Vancouver strand. During the summer

English Bay beach is a picturesque location for sunbathing.

months, the broad crescent of sand—lined with giant logs that make great backrests—is packed with families and couples, while the calm, crisp water is filled with bathers seeking reprieve from the heat. The distant Coast Mountains provide a picture-perfect backdrop. All of this in the heart of the busy city. 🕘 *30 min, or as long as you'd like to linger. Along Beach Ave., between Gilford & Bidwell sts. Bus: C21, 5.*

4 ★★ False Creek Ferries. Vancouver is hemmed in by ocean bays and inlets on three sides. Among the quickest and most pleasurable ways to get out on the water is via the cute, car-size ferries that crisscross False Creek, shuttling passengers from various downtown and Yaletown docks to Granville Island (p 10, 5), Vanier Park (p 61, 4), and the Telus World of Science (p 39, 8). 🕘 *15 min. Aquabus runs to Granville Island from the foot of Hornby St. ☎ 604/689-5858. www.theaquabus.com. False Creek ferries run to Granville Island and Vanier Park from the Aquatic Centre, 1050 Beach Ave., at Thurlow. ☎ 604/684-7781. www.granvilleislandferries.bc.ca. Fares to Granville Island C$3.25 adults, C$1.75 seniors & kids 4–12; service runs every 15 min.*

5 ★★★ Granville Island. Granville Island began as an industrial park built on reclaimed land in 1915, but in the late 1970s its industries had fallen on hard times and the city began encouraging people-friendly redevelopment. Today, the 15-hectare (37-acre) pseudo-island (it's actually more of a peninsula, jutting out into False Creek under the Granville Street Bridge) is clustered with old warehouses and factories housing restaurants, theaters, artists' workshops and galleries, an art school, a small brewery, and a few remaining heavy industries to keep things real. Near the ferry docks, the Public Market (p 33, 1) is a mecca for Vancouver's foodies. 🕘 *1 hr. www.granvilleisland.com. Bus: 50. Ferries: Aquabus or False Creek.*

6 ★★ Yaletown. Back across False Creek, the former warehouse district of Yaletown was rediscovered during the late 1990s, when its brick industrial spaces were transformed into trendy offices, lofts, and chic restaurants with patio seating. Today it retains an upscale, urban vibe, full of bars and restaurants frequented by Vancouver's young and affluent. The area is centered on Hamilton and Mainland streets. For a detailed tour of the neighborhood, see p 58. 🕘 *1 hr., or more if you stop for an afternoon cocktail on a Yaletown patio. Ferries from Granville Island (see above) run to*

The False Creek Ferries are the best way to get from downtown to Granville Island.

The charming restaurants, art galleries, and shops of Granville Island make it a favorite of both locals and visitors.

the Yaletown marina every 15 min. Fare C$4.25 adults, C$2.25 seniors & kids 4–12.

7 ★ Granville Street. What the Strip is to Vegas, Granville Street is to Vancouver (albeit on a much smaller scale). Dozens of bars, clubs, restaurants, and theaters (and a few peep shows) line the 6 blocks that make up the heart of Granville. It's sometimes tawdry, always lively and an invaluable peek into the true diversity of Vancouver's downtown, from well-heeled shoppers to burned-out panhandlers 🕘 ***30 min. The core of the Granville Street district extends from Davie St. to W. Georgia St. Bus: 4, 6, 7. SkyTrain: Millennium or Expo lines to Granville Street. Canada Line to Vancouver City Centre.***

8 ★★ Robson Street. Need some retail therapy? Take a quick detour west off of Granville Street onto Robson Street One of the busiest shopping stretches in Canada, it's lined with big-name shops such as Armani Exchange, Tommy Hilfiger, Esprit, Aveda, and Canada's own Roots. Farther west, the street becomes a hot social scene for Asian ESL students, full of Korean restaurants, cafes, and bubble-tea houses. 🕘 ***30 min., more if you shop or people-watch. Bus: 5.***

9 ★★ Vancouver Art Gallery. On first glance you think, "Staid old traditions," because the Gallery's 1912 building was originally a courthouse, designed in a classical Greco-Roman style by noted architect Francis Rattenbury (1867–1935). But inside you'll find works from throughout the 20th century, including paintings by regional modernist Emily Carr and rotating temporary exhibits that range from early photography to contemporary video art. The building's glass-topped dome floods the central rotunda with light, while ornate plasterwork and marble put a

A busker entertains the shoppers on Robson Street.

The classically designed Vancouver Art Gallery is home to a surprisingly modern collection.

classical frame on many thoroughly modern pieces. *1hr. 750 Hornby St. (btw. Robson & Georgia sts.). 604/662-4719. www.vanartgallery.bc.ca. Admission C$22.50 adults, C$17 seniors, C$7 kids 5–12, free for 4 and under. Prices about C$3 less Sept–May. Daily 10am–5pm (open late Tues, when it's free 5–9pm). Bus: 5. SkyTrain: Millennium or Expo lines to Burrard Station.*

10 ★★ The Fairmont Hotel Vancouver. Just across the street from the Vancouver Art Gallery is the château-style Fairmont Hotel Vancouver (p 125), the grand dame of the city's hotels. Opened in May 1939 for a visit by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, the 17-story hotel was Vancouver's tallest building until 1972, and even today its steep green-copper roof is a fixture on the Vancouver skyline. On the outside, you can see a wealth of gargoyles and Renaissance detailing, while the lobby offers shopping, a lovely bar, and dogs whose job it is to greet guests. *10 min. 900 W. Georgia St. www.fairmont.com/hotelvancouver. Bus: 2, 22, 44. SkyTrain: Millennium or Expo lines to Burrard Station.*

11 ★★ Olympic Cauldron at Canada Place. The 2010 Olympic Winter Games brought Vancouver into the global spotlight. One of the most striking reminders is the Olympic Cauldron, a sculpture of massive interlocking icicles sandwiched between the two unique buildings that comprise Canada Place. To the west is the Convention Centre West Building: soaring glass walls topped by a 2.4-hectare (6-acre) living roof—one of North America's largest—planted with indigenous plants and grasses. Next door, the East Building and its cruise terminal is shaped like a ship, with five Teflon "sails" forming the roof. Both buildings are encircled by seaside promenades, letting you walk all the way around them for wonderful views. Pause here to admire Coal Harbour (p 45)—one of the city's newer waterfront neighborhoods, packed with parks, public art, and ritzy condo towers. To the west, you can also see the beginnings of Stanley Park, while across Burrard Inlet the

Arthur Erickson

Born in June 1924, native son Arthur Erickson is Vancouver's most famous and influential architect. After studying at the University of British Columbia (UBC) and Montreal's McGill University, he traveled extensively in Europe and the Far East before returning to establish his Vancouver practice in 1953. From the mid-'60s up until today, he's redefined Vancouver's cityscape with buildings and public spaces such as **Robson Square** (p 28, 10), the **Provincial Law Courts** (p 50, 21), and UBC's **Museum of Anthropology** (p 16, 6), the latter considered among the definitive buildings of modern Canadian architecture.

North Shore Mountains loom above the homes of North Vancouver. *15 min. At the northern end of Thurlow St. SkyTrain: Millennium, Expo, or Canada lines to Waterfront Station. Bus: 4, 7.*

12 ★★★ **Gastown.** Top off the day with a stroll through Vancouver's oldest neighborhood. Gastown grew up around a saloon opened by former river pilot Gassy Jack Deighton in 1867 to serve the nearby logging camp. Today the neighborhood retains a Victorian flavor, full of low, shoulder-to-shoulder brick buildings, ornate streetlights, and cobbled squares—all of it leavened by new restaurants, high-end design stores, hip bars serving artisanal cocktails, and a smattering of souvenir shops along Water Street. ***Note:*** While itself gentrified, Gastown borders on Vancouver's roughest neighborhood, the Downtown East Side, where panhandlers and strung-out drug users are commonplace. For a comprehensive look at Gastown, follow the walking tour on p 53. *1–2 hr. Btw. the waterfront and Hastings St., from Cambie to Main sts. Bus: 4, 7. SkyTrain: Millennium, Expo, or Canada lines to Waterfront Station.*

The Olympic Cauldron is one of the city's most striking reminders of hosting the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

In Gastown's Maple Tree Square, the 13 **Irish Heather** is one of the most authentic Irish bars in town, with a nook-filled interior and a glass-enclosed sunroom in the back, overlooking charming, brick-lined Gaoler's Mews. There's an excellent pub menu, and, of course, beer. *210 Carrall St. ☎ 604/688-9779. www.irishheather.com. $.*

The Best in Two Days

You spent your first day in Vancouver canvassing the city's core. Now it's time to explore the outdoor and cultural offerings a little farther afield, from the mountains and rugged coastline of Vancouver's North Shore to the museums and gardens on the city's western fringe, with a quick stop in Chinatown for a dose of history.

START: **From downtown, drive, taxi, or take the Grouse Mountain shuttle (free with purchase of park admission) over the scenic Lions Gate Bridge and into North Vancouver. Proceed to the tram at the base of Grouse Mountain.**

1 ★★ kids Grouse Mountain. It's not a real trip to Vancouver if you don't experience the Coast Mountains, whose rocky peaks rise more than a mile high (1600 m) just outside the city. The most accessible (albeit unabashedly touristy) of these massifs is Grouse Mountain. Visitors are zipped to the top aboard a mile-long aerial tram (North America's longest), with great views of the city, Strait of Georgia, and distant Vancouver Island. Up top, there's plenty to do: ziplining, a 58m (190-ft) observation tower, grizzly bears in a natural habitat, and, in winter, darn good skiing. *2 hr. or more. 6400 Nancy Greene Way, North Vancouver. 604/980-9311. www.grousemountain.com. Admission C$40 adults, C$36 seniors, C$24 youth 13-18, C$14 child 5-12, free for kids 4 and under. Ziplining, skiing, and pretty much everything else exciting costs extra. Grouse's free shuttle bus leaves downtown from Canada Place and the Hyatt Regency. Alternately: Cross the Burrard Inlet aboard the SeaBus; then connect with bus 236 at Lonsdale Quay.*

2 ★★★ Lighthouse Park. Located next door in West Vancouver, the ritzy 'burb where mountain forests tumble down to rocky Pacific shores, Lighthouse Park offers a glimpse of Vancouver's trademark natural splendor, minus the crowds. A modest network of trails winds through one of the largest extant swathes of old-growth forest in the region, edging along coastal cliffs before converging on a nearly century-old lighthouse. *1 hr. Located off of Marine Dr., on Beacon Lane, in West Vancouver. Bus: 250 (ask driver for Lighthouse Park stop).*

Uncrowded Lighthouse Park yields great vistas of the Pacific.

The very peaceful grounds of the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Garden makes for wonderful strolling.

3 ★★ **Chinatown.** After getting a taste of Vancouver's wild side, head back downtown for some cultural immersion. The Chinatown neighborhood—a few blocks of brick heritage buildings packed with dim sum restaurants, markets selling Chinese herbs, and butchers with ducks hanging in the windows—is a throwback to the days when the city's Asian population could all squeeze into a tiny ghetto. Today, more than one-third of all Vancouverites are Asian and most live in the suburbs. See p 55 for a walking tour. *1 hr. Chinatown is bounded by E. Hastings St. & Union St. to the north & south, Gore Ave. & Abbot St. to the east & west. Bus: 22, 19, 50. SkyTrain: Millennium or Expo lines to Stadium-Chinatown.*

4 ★★ **Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Garden.** Opened in 1981 and named for Dr. Sun Yat-Sen (first president of the Republic of China, in 1912), this is one of only a few classical Chinese gardens in North America. Its architecture is based on the yin-yang principle: soft water against solid stone, smooth swaying bamboo around gnarled immovable rocks, dark pebbles against light pebbles, and so on. Immediately next door, separated from the garden by only a classical footbridge, the free, public Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Park is less meditative but beautiful in its own right. *1 hr. 578 Carrall St., btw. Pender and Keefer sts. 604/689-7133. www.vancouverchinesegarden.com. Admission to garden C$14 adults, C$11 seniors, C$10 students with ID, free for kids under 5; families (2 adults with up to 2 kids) C$28. Daily 10am–6pm (9:30am–7pm summer, 10am–4:30pm winter). Closed Mon from Nov 1–Apr 30. Bus: 22, 19. SkyTrain: Millennium or Expo lines to Stadium-Chinatown.*

Want a quick sampling of Chinatown's culinary delights? 5 **New Town Bakery & Restaurant** specializes in steamed buns (barbecue pork, chicken, pineapple, you name it), as well as an extensive selection of traditional sweets, including sesame balls with red bean paste and winter melon cake. *158 Pender St. 604/689-7835. www.newtonbakery.ca. $.*

6 ★★★ **University of British Columbia Museum of Anthropology.** Time to zoom to a completely different side of the city: oceanside Point Grey, home to the province's most prestigious

university and some of its priciest real estate. The university's Museum of Anthropology, easily Vancouver's finest museum, opened at its current location in 1976, highlighting the artistic traditions of British Columbia's First Nations peoples. Enter its glass-walled Great Hall to view an incredible collection of totem poles, carved boxes, canoes, blankets, and carvings, including works by famous Haida artist Bill Reid. *1½–2 hr. 6393 NW Marine Dr. ☎ 604/822-5087. www.moa.ubc.ca. Admission C$14 adults, C$12 seniors and students, free for kids 6 and under. Mid-May to mid-Oct daily 10am–5pm (until 9pm Tues), mid-Oct to mid-May Tues–Sun 11am–5pm (until 9pm Tues). Bus 4, 17, 99 to the UBC bus loop, then walk northwest (see www.maps.ubc.ca for campus maps & directions).*

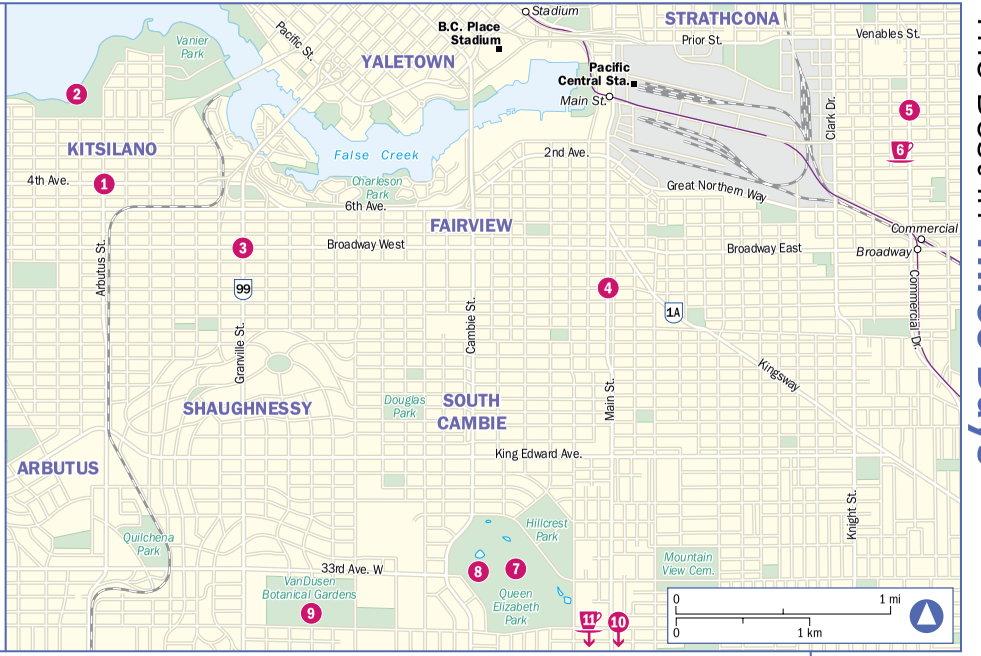
7 ★★ **Wreck Beach.** Several hundred wooden steps descend through the forests of Pacific Spirit Regional Park to Vancouver's only clothing-optional beach. Don't worry: Just as many visitors keep their clothes on as bare it all, and the 7km (4-mile) beach is perhaps the most picturesque and secluded in the city, backed by huge sand cliffs and fronted by the calm Pacific. *1 hr. The path to the beach is accessed from NW Marine Dr., near the intersection with University Blvd. Bus 4, 17, 99 to the UBC bus loop, then walk west down University Blvd.*

8 ★★★ **Nitobe Memorial Garden.** The 1-hectare (2½-acre) garden is considered one of the finest traditional Japanese stroll gardens in North America. Pathways are arranged around a central pond and island, with stone lanterns placed at the crossroads to symbolize choices in life and encourage meditation. *45 min. 1895 Lower Mall (at NW Marine Dr.), UBC Point Grey Campus. ☎ 604/822-6038. www.botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/nitobe. Admission C$6 adults, C$4.50 seniors and youth 13-17, C$3 kids 6-12, free for 5 and under, families C$15. Daily 9am–5pm (weekend opening 9:30am), but check in winter for shorter hours. Bus: 4, 17.*

The Nitobe Memorial Garden is considered one of the finest traditional Japanese gardens in North America.

The Best in **Three Days**

1. Kitsilano
2. Kitsilano Beach
3. South Granville Rise & Gallery Row
4. Main Street
5. Commercial Drive
6. Caffe Calabria
7. Queen Elizabeth Park
8. The Bloedel Conservatory
9. VanDusen Botanical Gardens
10. Punjabi Market
11. All India Sweets & Restaurant



On your third day, explore the unique peripheral neighborhoods that give Vancouver a big boost of history, culture, and authenticity: Get out to the city's most happening beach; stock up on art on Gallery Row; schmooze with the hipsters on burgeoning Main Street; head east for a cappuccino in the Italian cafes of Commercial Drive; and circle back for some stunning gardens and Vancouver's own Little India. START: **Take Bus 4, 7, or 44 to Vine St.**

1 ★ **Kitsilano.** Across English Bay from downtown, Kitsilano was one of the first Vancouver neighborhoods to be established off the downtown peninsula. In the '60s it was a counterculture haven, a distinction that persisted into the '70s and '80s when both Greenpeace and the BC Green Party were founded here. Today, Kits (as it's known to locals) is a much more gentrified place, but in that liberal, ecoconscious, organic way that keeps neighborhoods interesting. Its side streets are a mix of small homes and apartment complexes, while 4th Avenue is a major destination for restaurants and shopping, full of independent boutiques, coffee shops, bookstores, and more. For more details, follow the "Kitsilano & Granville Island" walking tour on p 61. 🕘 *1½ hr. Kitsilano is bordered by English Bay to the north, 16th Ave. to the south, Burrard St. to the east & Alma St. to the west. Bus: 4, 7, 44.*

2 ★★ kids **Kitsilano Beach.** At the north edge of Kitsilano, along the shore of English Bay, Kitsilano ("Kits") Beach is one of the city's most popular. In warm weather, it's full of young, fit Vancouverites and coeds from the nearby University of British Columbia swimming and playing volleyball in the sand, with views of North Vancouver's snow-capped mountains in the distance. Facilities include washrooms, water fountains, concession stands, and tennis and basketball courts. At the beach's western end, the 137m, saltwater Kitsilano Pool is the longest in Canada, providing a safe "beach" swim for kids. 🕘 *1 hr. The beach runs roughly from Yew St. to Maple St. Kits Pool is at 2305 Cornwall Ave.* ☎ *604/731-0011. Open late May to mid-Sept. Hours vary. Pool C$5.31 adults, C$3.71 seniors and teens 13–18, C$2.63 kids 6–12. Bus: 2, 4, 22.*

3 ★★ **South Granville Rise & Gallery Row.** South Granville Rise is a stretch of upscale shopping running along Granville Street,

Sun-worshippers flock to Kitsilano Beach in summer.

beginning at 6th Avenue and extending south to 16th Avenue. It's full of men's and ladies' fashions, Oriental rug merchants, bistros and coffeehouses, and other retailers. The blocks between 5th Avenue and Broadway are known as Vancouver's "Gallery Row," with nearly two dozen significant galleries displaying contemporary works. For more on the galleries, see p 31, 23. 🕘 *1 hr. www.southgranville.org. Bus: 10, 98.*

4 ★★ **Main Street.** An antidote to the gleaming towers and glitzy retail of downtown Vancouver, Main Street slices through the quaint, residential Mt. Pleasant neighborhood. Funky boutiques, antiques stores, and an exploding number of intimate bars and restaurants pack the heart of Main, all favored by Vancouver's ample hipster contingent. The area is changing fast—with several high-rise towers under construction—but remains a bastion of alternative culture just outside the downtown core. Also of interest are a good number of authentic Chinese restaurants, vestiges of the days when the area was settled by Chinese immigrants. 🕘 *1½ hr. The heart of Main stretches from 6th Ave. to King Edward Ave. Bus 3.*

5 ★ **Commercial Drive.** For a grittier dose of bohemian charm, plus an unexpected taste of Old World culture, take the SkyTrain out to Commercial Drive, whose 12-block stretch between E. 6th Avenue and Venables Street is a mix of 21st-century youth culture, holdover '60s culture, old immigrants, new immigrants, neo hippies, artists, and lefty families. You'll find cuisine from across the globe, record stores, bookstores (including the inimitable People's Co-op Bookstore, p 71), coffee bars, and, most alluringly of all, classic Italian cafes, bakeries, restaurants, and delis—thriving holdovers from the wave of Italian immigrants who settled here in the 1940s and 1950s. 🕘 *1–2 hr. www.thedrive.ca. SkyTrain: Millennium or Expo lines to Commercial Dr./ Broadway Station. Bus: 9, 99, 20.*

Don't miss 6 **Caffè Calabria,** whose decor is pure over-the-top Italia: faux Roman statues and columns, marble cafe tables, chrome chairs, and a ceiling that's a takeoff on the Sistine Chapel. Try a cappuccino, sandwich, gelato, or pastry. Watch out: staff are authentically brusque. Just like in Roma! *1745 Commercial Dr.* ☎ *604/253-7017. $.*

Fast-changing Main Street is a favorite of Vancouver's ample hipster contingent.

For old-time Italian cafes and coffee bars, your best bet is Commercial Drive.

7 ★★★ Queen Elizabeth Park. If you're more trees-and-flowers than counterculture-and-cappuccino, skip Commercial Drive in favor of a visit to Vancouver's second most popular park, located on the West Side atop a 150m (492-ft.) extinct volcano, on land that was once a basalt quarry. Highlights include the main and north Quarry Gardens, which transformed the old excavations pits into a vibrant spread of flowers, shrubs, and trees, all fed (in the main garden) by a tumbling waterfall. On the slopes around the gardens, the Arboretum displays a collection of trees native to nearly every part of Canada. *1–2 hr. Main entrance at 33rd Ave. & Cambie St. 604/257-8400. www.vancouver.ca/parks/parks/queenelizabeth/. Free admission to park. Conservatory is C$5 adults, C$3.48 seniors and teens 13–18, C$2.50 kids 3–12.*

8 ★ The Bloedel Conservatory. Opened in 1969 and perched at the highest point of Queen Elizabeth Park, this huge, humid geodesic dome is made of triangular plexiglass bubbles and is filled with more than 500 varieties of tropical flowers and exotic plants, over 100 birds, and swimming koi. Behind the conservatory, a large plaza is highlighted by a beautiful dancing fountain. The dome makes a great reprieve during rainy weather, plus it's dirt cheap. *30–45 min. Main park entrance at 33rd Ave. & Cambie St. 604/257-8584. www. vancouver.ca/parks/parks/bloedel/. Admission C$5 adults,*

The quarry gardens at Queen Elizabeth Park.

Punjabi Market is packed with shops selling Bollywood fashions and saris.

C$3.48 seniors and teens 13–18, C$2.50 kids 3–12, free for 3 and under. Daily May–Sept 9am–8pm (10am–9pm Sat–Sun); Oct–Apr 10am–5pm. Bus: 15, 33.

9 ★★ VanDusen Botanical Gardens. Just 3 blocks from Queen Elizabeth Park, this 22-hectare (54-acre) botanical garden is home to some 7,500 plant types from around the world, arranged to illustrate different botanical relationships—from geographic arrangements such as the Sino Himalayan Garden to historical gardens such as the VanDusen maze, an Elizabethan hedgerow maze made from 3,000 pyramidal cedars. All are interspersed with reflecting ponds and lawns, as well as a great collection of stone sculpture, much of it created on the grounds during 1975's Vancouver International Stone Sculpture Symposium. *1–2 hr. 5251 Oak St. (at 37th). ☎ 604/878-9274. www.vancouver.ca/parks/parks/vandusen/index.htm. Open daily at 10am (9am June-Aug). Closing time varies from 4pm Nov–Feb to 8:30pm June–Aug. Admission Apr-Sept C$10.25 adults, C$7.50 seniors and teens, C$5.50 kids 3–12. Prices lower Oct–Mar. Bus: 17.*

10 ★★ Punjabi Market (aka Little India). South of VanDusen Botanical Gardens is an unexpected glimpse of East India in Western Canada: the Punjabi Market. The surrounding neighborhood is home to some of the 200,000 people of Indian and Pakistani descent who reside in Vancouver, most of whom hail from the Punjab region. Stretching for 4 blocks along Main Street, the Punjabi Market is packed with shops selling Bollywood fashions and saris, boutiques full of bangles, gold jewelry, and religious icons, and, of course, plenty of restaurants serving authentic (if not exactly mind-blowing) Indian cuisine, often buffet style, with lots of vegetarian options. *1 hr. Main St., btw. 48th and 51st aves. Bus: 3.*

Got a sweet tooth? Check out **11 All India Sweets & Restaurant** for irresistible Indian desserts: a rainbow-colored selection of delicacies made with milk, sugar, and ground cashews, pistachios and other nuts, all sold by the kilo. The unfortunately named barfi is delicious. *6507 Main St. ☎ 604/327-0891. $.*

2 The Best Special-Interest Tours

Vancouver Art & Architecture

1. The Shangri-La
2. Burrard Street's Architectural Landmarks
3. The Marine Building
4. Olympic Cauldron at the Vancouver Convention Centre
5. Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art
6. The Pendulum Gallery
7. Caffè Artigiano
8. Vancouver Art Gallery
9. Vancouver Public Library
10. Robson Square
11. Granville Street
12. Vancouver Contemporary Art Gallery
13. Emery Barnes Park
14. Yaletown Warehouse District
15. Raw Canvas
16. The Roundhouse
17. *Welcome to the Land of Light*
18. The Erickson Building
19. Granville Island Public Market
20. Emily Carr University of Art + Design
21. Railspur Alley Artist Studios/Galleries
22. Eagle Spirit Gallery
23. South Granville's Gallery Row

Previous page: Science World at the Telus World of Science is popular with kids.

0
1/2 mi
0
1/2 km
Marine Building
AXA Place
Cordova St.
Hastings St.
Commerce Place
Pender St.
Burrard St.
Benthell 5
Dunsmuir St.
Detail of Site 2
Deadman's I.
Burrard Inlet
Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre
Pender St.
Melville St.
Thurlow St.
Burrard St.
Waterfront
Waterfront Sta.
Portside Park
see detail at right
Howe St.
Hastings St.
Cordova St.
Granville
Granville St.
Richards St.
GASTOWN
Alexander St.
Powell St.
Cordova St.
Hastings St.
Pender St.
Abbott St.
Carrall St.
Columbia St.
Gore Ave.
Dunlevy Ave.
CHINATOWN
Keefer St.
Main St.
Georgia St.
Prior St.
Hornby St.
Granville St.
Georgia St.
Robson St.
Dunsmuir St.
Smithe St.
Homer St.
Cambie St.
Stadium
Livingstone Park
Helmcken St.
Seymour St.
Nelson St.
Hamilton St.
Expo Blvd.
B.C. Place Stadium
Davie St.
Beatty St.
Mainland St.
Creekside Park
Pacific Central Sta.
YALETOWN
Pacific Blvd.
David Lam Park
Cambie Bridge
False Creek
1st Ave.
2nd Ave.
Industrial Ave.
3rd Ave.
4th Ave.
Charleson Park
Charleson St.
5th Ave.
Quebec St.
Main St.
6th Ave.
Manitoba St.
Scotia St.
Brunswick St.
7th Ave.
Laurel St.
Willow St.
Kingsway
8th Ave.
Broadway West
Ash St.
Alberta St.
Ontario St.
10th Ave.
Oak St.
Heather St.
Cambie St.
Yukon St.
Columbia St.
11th Ave.
MOUNT PLEASANT
12th Ave.

While Vancouver may be better known as a business and quality-of-life capital, it's also home to a thriving arts scene and architects who are livening the city's heretofore dull, condo-heavy skyline with some standout modern buildings. This walking tour will take you to art sites big and small, from the top museums and galleries to the subtlest public-art installations. START: **Intersection of W. Georgia and Thurlow streets.**

A cornice on the facade of the Marine Building shows off some of the structure's intricate detailing.

1 ★★ **The Shangri-La.** Dominating Vancouver's modern skyline, this 62-story hotel/condo combo is the city's tallest building. Check out its minimalist, angular design, with its nearly weightless-looking glass-and-aluminum facade. 🕘 ***5 min. 1128 W. Georgia St. www.shangri-la.com/en/property/vancouver/shangrila.***

2 ★★ **Burrard Street's Architectural Landmarks.** From the intersection of West Georgia and Burrard streets, look right to see the classic profile of the grand dame **Fairmont Hotel** (p 125), then walk left (north) on Burrard. Ahead on your right, the 33-story, metal-and-glass **Benthell 5** (550 Burrard St.) is notable for its curving east and west facades. One block farther, the **Commerce Place/CIBC building** (400 Burrard St.) is one of Vancouver's most striking, looking like a stack of mirrored boxes that form different patterns when viewed from different angles. Another block north, the bronze **AXA Place building** (999 W. Hastings St.) isn't particularly notable by itself, but its facade offers a beautiful reflection of the historic Marine Building (3, below) across the street. 🕘 ***20 min.***

3 ★★★ **The Marine Building.** The 21-story Marine Building (opened in 1930) is one of downtown's most beautiful landmarks. Designed in the Art Deco style, it's decorated inside and out with the kind of exuberance typical of the period. Check out its facade and cathedral-like entranceway, adorned with stylized sea horses, crabs, and other sea creatures, then duck into the vaulted lobby, an ornate masterpiece full of stained glass, gorgeous tile work, gleaming brass, and lighting sconces shaped like the prows of ships. 🕘 ***10 min. 355 Burrard St.***

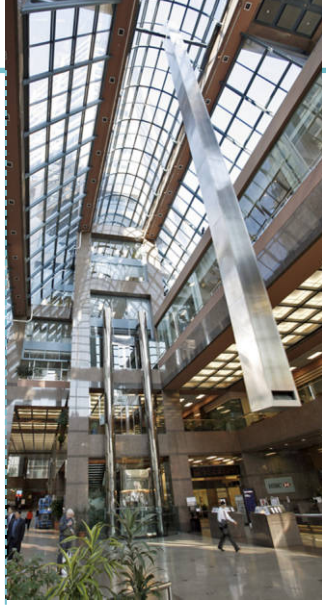
4 ★★ **Olympic Cauldron at the Vancouver Convention Centre.** Thurlow Street's northern terminus is the sleek new Vancouver Convention Centre. Here, the city's Olympic cauldron—giant interlocking icicles whose tips are set aflame on special occasions—provides a vivid reminder of the 2010 Winter Olympic glories. ***See p 12,*** 11.

5 ★★ Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art. Entered via the lovely courtyard of the Cathedral Place office complex, this gallery celebrates the life work of Haida artist Bill Reid (p 49) through permanent and temporary exhibits of his totem poles, jewelry, bronze sculpture, wood carvings, and other objects. It's second only to the UBC Museum of Anthropology's amazing Reid collection (p 16, 6). *45 min. 639 Hornby St. 604/682-3455. www.billreidgallery.ca. Admission C$10 adults, C$7 seniors, C$5 kids 5–17. Wed–Sun 11am–5pm. Bus: 5. SkyTrain: Millennium or Expo lines to Burrard Station.*

6 ★ The Pendulum Gallery. The seven-story glass atrium of the HSBC Building functions as half entranceway, half public art gallery. The highlight is Alan Storey's *Pendulum*, a 27m (90-ft.) brushed aluminum pylon that swings from the glass roof, detailing a slow, graceful arc that lines up at the end of each swing with a matching buttress on the atrium floor, appearing for a second to form an unbroken column. Other exhibits are installed around the gallery on a rotating basis. *10–20 min. 885 W. Georgia St. 604/250-9682. www.pendulumgallery.bc.ca. Free admission. Mon–Wed 9am–6pm; Thurs–Fri 9am–9pm; Sat 9am–5pm.*

The Italian-style 7 **Caffè Artigiano** serves elegantly poured cappuccinos and lattes, each with its own design in the foam. It's been the home of several Canadian Barista Champions. *763 Hornby St. 604/694-7737. www.caffeartigiano.com. $.*

8 ★★ Vancouver Art Gallery. *See p 11, 9.*

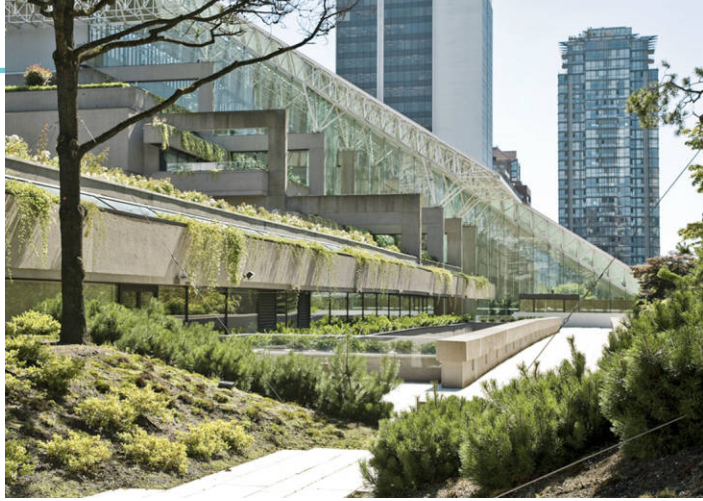


The soaring glass atrium of the Pendulum Gallery is highlighted by its namesake sculpture.

Proceed east along W. Georgia Street for 4 blocks; at the intersection with Homer Street, you will see on your right:

9 ★★ Vancouver Public Library. The nine-story library looks a bit like the Roman Colosseum on the outside, with one post-modern twist: Instead of meeting in a neat circle, the exterior wall spirals outward, like a nautilus. Inside, visitors are treated to an architect's fantasia of atriums, concourses, and skylights, not to mention two million or so volumes on the shelves. Need a breather? Head to one of the reading rooms on the upper floors for peace, quiet, and great city views. *20 min. 350 W. Georgia St. 604/331-3603. www.vpl.ca/branches/details/central_library. Mon–Thurs 10am–9pm; Fri–Sat 10am–6pm; Sun noon–5pm.*

Exit the library and double back westward on Robson Street for 4 blocks to:



Robson Square mixes modern architecture with "green" landscaping.

⑩ ★ **Robson Square.** Facing the Art Gallery, Vancouver icon Arthur Erickson's modernist, concrete complex (built in 1980) is essentially a park atop ground-hugging offices, with hundreds of trees and other plants surrounding a block-long reflecting pool and three waterfalls that flow from the Provincial Law Courts. The square has been under renovation for the better part of a decade, but should be inviting when completed. During winter, don't miss free ice skating in the rink below the square. ◴ *20 min. At Robson St., btw. Hornby & Howe sts.*

⑪ ★★ **Granville Street.** Vancouver's neon-filled bar and club district was briefly known as Vegas North during the 1950s. Vintage signs and many vestiges of bygone glories endure, including the Commodore Ballroom (p 115), an Art Deco dance hall from 1929 with a horsehair-sprung floor, and the Orpheum Theatre (p 117), a 1927 Vaudeville house that's now home to the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. *See p 11,* ⑦.

⑫ ★★ **Vancouver Contemporary Art Gallery.** A progressive contemporary art gallery programming world-class temporary exhibits in two large, high-ceilinged rooms. ◴ *30 min. 555 Nelson St. (at Richards).* ☎ *604/681-2700. www.contemporaryartgallery.ca. Admission by voluntary donation. Wed–Sun noon–6pm.*

Exit the museum and turn right onto Richards St., proceeding for 2 blocks to:

⑬ ★ **Emery Barnes Park.** Named after the first elected black legislator in the province (and a former Green Bay Packer, to boot), this park tucked amid downtown's towers is an undervisited gem of landscape architecture. A stream issues from a small waterfall on one end, running the length of the park and erupting into a riotous fountain at the other end. The streambed is inlaid with eerie, hand-painted mosaics. Picnic tables and a play area for kids make the park a great stop for a summer snack. ◴ *15 min. Richards St. btw. Helmcken & Davie sts.*

Turn left on Davie Street and continue for 1 block to:

Art Galleries of Vancouver

Besides the Gallery Row galleries (p 31), other great nonprofit and commercial galleries around Vancouver include:

- **Access Gallery:** New contemporary works, featuring local emerging artists. *437 W. Hastings St., Gastown.* ☎ *604/689-2907. www.vaarc.ca.*
- **Artspeak:** Works that blur the line between writing and contemporary art. *233 Carrall St., Gastown.* ☎ *604/688-0051. www.artspeak.ca.*
- **ArtStarts:** Works by children, created as part of a nonprofit school arts program. *808 Richards St., Downtown.* ☎ *888/878-7144 or 604/878-7144. www.artstarts.com.*
- **Gallery Gachet:** Works by artists "informed by mental health issues." *88 E. Cordova St., Gastown.* ☎ *604/687-2468. www.gachet.org.*
- **Grunt Gallery:** An artist-run nonprofit featuring contemporary Canadian and international artists. *116–350 E. 2nd Ave., just outside of downtown.* ☎ *604/875-9516. www.grunt.ca.*
- **Jennifer Kostuik Gallery:** Works by established and emerging contemporary artists. *1070 Homer St., Yaletown.* ☎ *604/737-3969. www.kostiukgallery.com.*
- **Or Gallery:** Nonprofit gallery presenting experimental, challenging contemporary art. *555 Hamilton St., Downtown.* ☎ *604/683-7395. www.orgallery.org.*

For commercial galleries dealing in fine **Northwest Coast First Nations art,** see p 74.

14 Yaletown Warehouse District. While the rest of Yaletown is glitzy, new high-rises, these 4 square blocks along Mainland and Hamilton streets preserve the neighborhood's gritty origins as a Canadian Pacific Railway depot and industrial center. Original 19th-century brick warehouses have been painstakingly converted to loft-style apartments, offices, and—on the ground floor—trendy bars and restaurants with patio seating. It's a streetscape from another century, and a true treat for industrial architecture buffs. 🕘 ***15 min. Hamilton & Mainland sts., from Davie to Nelson St.***

Want to create while you nibble? **15 Raw Canvas** in Yaletown is part wine bar, part art studio. Sip, sample some of their tapas, and—if you feel inspired—buy a canvas and unleash your inner artiste (canvases, with paints and all supplies included, start at C$45). ***1046 Hamilton St.*** ☎ ***604/687-1729. www.rawcanvas.com. $$.***

Back on Davie Street, head south and cross busy Pacific Boulevard. On your right, you will see:

16 The Roundhouse. This classic, circular industrial building was once

Engine 374 at the Roundhouse was the first transcontinental train to enter Vancouver.

the western terminus of the transcontinental Canadian Pacific Railway. (The term *roundhouse* references the giant wooden platform on which trains would literally be spun around to head back in the other direction.) Today, it's a community arts center. Look into the glass-walled pavilion to see the restored, gleaming Engine 374, which pulled the first transcontinental train into Vancouver in 1887. *10 min. 181 Roundhouse Mews. 604/713-1800. www.roundhouse.ca. Free admission.*

Continue 1 block south along Davie Street to the waterfront. Turn right and head west along the Yaletown seawall, a promenade filled with walkers and bikers and offering great views of the False Creek inlet.

17 ★ ***Welcome to the Land of Light.*** Along the walkway railing, artist Henry Tsang has installed aluminum letters spelling out phrases in English and Chinook. The work highlights intercultural communications in British Columbia, while use of Chinook, a 19th-century trade language that only had about 500 words, gives the sentiments great poetry. *5 min. On the Yaletown seawall btw. Davie & Drake sts.*

Continue walking west on the seawall, along the green expanse of David Lam Park. At the park's far edge, you will see:

18 ★ **The Erickson Building.** This unusual 18-story condo tower by the golden boy of Vancouver architecture is made of steel trusses and curving panels of glass. There's not a straight line anywhere, and the whole building seems to wobble like a tower of Jell-O. The luxury real estate inside is said to go for around C$2,000 per square foot, or up to $4 million and up per condo. *5 min. 1500 Homer Mews, on the False Creek waterfront.*

Directly in front of the Erickson Building on the Yaletown seawall is a small dock that extends into False Creek. Walk down and take the next ferry to Granville Island. (Fares are C$3.50 adults, C$1.75 seniors/kids. Departures every 15 min., 8:30am–9:30pm.)

Right at the dock, the 19 **Granville Island Public Market** (p 33, 1) is a must-stop for snacks, whether from one of the bakeries or produce stalls, or from one of the dozen-plus takeout restaurants on-site. *$.*

Walk down Johnson Street to the:

20 ★ **Emily Carr University of Art + Design.** This prominent art school (opened in 1925 and named for the iconic Canadian painter) has three galleries on-site showing work by both professional and student artists. *30 min.–1 hr. 1399 Johnston St., Granville Island. 604/844-3809. www.eciad.ca/resources/galleries.*

Free admission. Mon–Fri noon–5pm; Sat–Sun 10am–5pm.

21 ★★ Railspur Alley Artist Studios/Galleries. Granville Island is home to more than four dozen artist/artisan shops, many of them attached to the studios where the artwork, jewelry, prints, and other objects are made. The largest concentration of these gallery/studios is along this small alley just steps from the Emily Carr Institute. Others are scattered over the island; maps are available at the galleries and on the website below. *30 min.–1hr. Runs at an angle btw. Cartwright & Old Bridge sts. www.granvilleislandartists.com.*

Go left onto Old Bridge Street and right onto Cartwright Street to Anderson Street. Cross to Duranleau Street, which leads to Maritime Mews and:

22 ★★ Eagle Spirit Gallery. This commercial gallery specializes in original, museum-quality (read: very pricey) Northwest Coast First Nations and Inuit art, including hand-carved masks, argillite stone carvings, and paintings. *30 min. 1803 Maritime Mews. 888/801-5277 or 604/801-5205. www.eaglespiritgallery.com. Thurs–Mon 11am–5pm.*

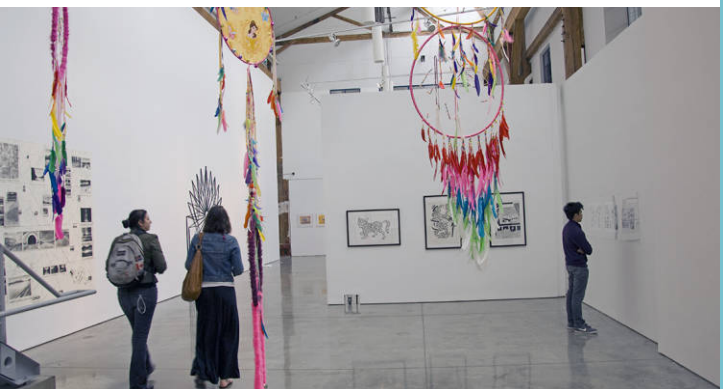
Touring Tip

Finish your art tour with dinner at **Boneta** in Gastown (p 93), which features works by important local artists. For an arty overnight, stay at the high-design **Opus Hotel** (p 128) or the **Listel** (p 127), which displays art from the Buschlen-Mowatt Gallery.

Exit Granville Island via the main Anderson Street entrance. Cross 4th Avenue and cut through the park to Granville Street and:

23 ★★ South Granville's Gallery Row. The stretch of Granville between 5th Avenue and Broadway is home to several significant galleries. Standouts for contemporary works by Canadian and international artists include the Equinox Gallery, 2321 Granville St. (☎ 604/736-2405; www.equinoxgallery.com); Monte Clark Gallery, 2339 Granville St. (☎ 604/730-5000; www.monteclarkgallery.com); and Jacana Gallery, 2435 Granville St. (☎ 604/879-9306. www.jacanagallery.com). The Douglas Reynolds Gallery, 2335 Granville St. (☎ 604/731–9292; www.douglasreynoldsgallery.com), deals in fine Northwest Coast Native art. *1–2 hr. Most galleries open Tues–Sat 10am–5pm.*

The Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design has galleries showing both professional and student work.



Vancouver for Foodies

1. Granville Island Public Market
2. Granville Island Brewery
3. Artisan Sake Maker
4. Go Fish! & False Creek Fisherman's Wharf
5. Barbara Jo's Books to Cooks
6. Les Amis du Fromage
7. Roaming Dragon
8. Bao Bei
9. Blue Water Cafe + Raw Bar

Vancouver is one giant multicourse meal, a world-class smorgasbord laid out between mountains and sea. Ingredients: farm-fresh organic produce and sustainably harvested seafood. Philosophy: Buy local, eat seasonal. Seasoning: a staggering range of ethnic influences. Result? Yum. This tour samples some of the city's culinary high points, from street food to haute fare.

START: Granville Island.

The Granville Public Market is the best place in the city for picnic fare.

1 ★★★ Granville Island Public Market. Welcome to the undisputed center of Vancouver's culinary universe. The cavernous Public Market is crammed with more than three dozen indoor shops and stalls stuffed to the gills with fresh local produce, seafood, meats, artisanal cheeses, sweets, rare teas and coffees, and fresh baked goods. There are also more than a dozen casual walk-up restaurants around a central seating area. Foodies can easily spend hours at the market, smelling the aromas and sampling the wares. Outside, busking musicians and great views of the waterfront and city skyline lend a festive, family-friendly air to the market. For the ultimate experience, take a 2-hour chef-guided tour. *2–3 hr. for foodies, 1 hr. for everyone else. 1689 Johnston St., at the Granville Island ferry dock. 604/666-5784. www.granville island.com. Market daily 9am–7pm. Market tours offered through Edible British Columbia, 604/812-9660. www.edible-britishcolumbia.com. Admission C$35. Daily 9am.*

2 Granville Island Brewery. One of the city's beer pioneers, this craft brewery was acquired by Molson in 2009 but continues to turn out quality suds named after

Granville Island Brewery turns out craft beers named after Vancouver neighborhoods.

The hand-pressed sake made by Artisan Sake Maker comes in several varieties.

Vancouver neighborhoods and local landmarks, like the tasty English Bay Pale Ale. Quaff a cold pint in the Taproom or join a tour to see how the hops and barley come together. Limited-edition seasonal brews are made on-site. 🕘 *1 hr. 1441 Cartwright St., Granville Island.* ☎ *604/687-2739. www.gib.ca. Daily 10am–8pm. Tours C$9.75 (includes 3 small beers). Daily noon, 2 and 4pm.*

3 ★ Artisan Sake Maker. Sake-maker Masa Shiroki's small establishment is the original Canadian small-batch sake winery, producing hand-pressed, hand-bottled sakes that complement the seasonal variations of BC's regional cuisine. Sake is available by the bottle or by the taste; the latter costs C$2 per glass. 🕘 *15 min. 1339 Railspur Alley, Granville Island.* ☎ *604/685-7253. www.artisansakemaker.com. Daily 11:30am–6pm.*

Exit Granville Island at Anderson Street (under the Granville Bridge) and take an immediate right along serpentine Island Park Walk.

4 ★ Go Fish! & False Creek Fisherman's Wharf. Addictive seafood tacos and delectable cod, salmon, and halibut fish and chips translate into long lines outside this humble Vancouver institution. Grab the catch of the day and settle into one of the outdoor seats, or head across the parking lot to Fisherman's Wharf, which offers fresh fish right off the boat. 🕘 *30 min.* *See p 95.*

Exit the parking lot and walk up 1st Avenue, following it around the S-curve and making a left onto Pine Street. Make the next right onto 2nd Avenue to reach:

5 ★★ Barbara Jo's Books to Cooks. An absolutely huge selection of cookbooks, wine books, and periodicals from around the world, for both amateur and professional cooks. They offer cooking classes, too, at the open kitchen along the back wall, and the staff is 100% foodie. 🕘 *30 min.–1 hr. 1740 W. 2nd Ave. (btw. Burrard & Pine sts.).* ☎ *604/688-6755. www.bookstocooks.com. Tues–Sat 9:30am–6pm; Sun–Mon noon–5pm.*

6 ★★ Les Amis du Fromage. Vancouver's best cheese shop, stocking between 400 and 500 cheeses at any given time. 🕘 *15–30 min. 1752 W. 2nd Ave. (btw. Burrard & Pine sts.).* ☎ *604/732-4218. www.buycheese.com. Mon–Wed and Sat–Sun 9am–6pm; Thurs–Fri 9am–6:30pm.*

Time to zip back downtown for more noshing. Hop on the new Canada Line at the nearby Olympic Village Station and proceed to City Centre Station (two stops). Alternately, take a taxi to:

7 ★★ Roaming Dragon. No foodie tour of Vancouver would be complete without sampling the city's exploding street-food scene. Roaming Dragon serves pan-Asian creations like Korean short-rib tacos and Chinese pork belly sliders from its bright red truck. Trained chefs and organic ingredients mean their fare is nothing like your typical street wiener. (Also on the same block is the Japadog cart, serving sausages topped with wasabi mayo, seaweed flakes, and daikon radish.) *30 min. See p 97.*

Had enough walking? Call a cab (p 192) and have it drop you off in Chinatown, at:

8 ★★★ Bao Bei. Stake out a spot at the bar for appies. (Warning: You may end up staying for dinner—the food is fantastic.) Secreted away on the edge of Chinatown, Bao Bei serves small plates of Taiwanese-influenced tapas in a contemporary, upscale atmosphere. Food is worlds away from the MSG-soaked dim sum in other Chinatown joints. Unmissable dishes include steamed buns with braised beef, and octopus salad with pickled cucumber. Decor is sparse and elegant with a strong French influence. Often crowded. *1 hr. See p 93.*

Walk 2 blocks west on Keefer Street, then hang a left and take Carrall Street south to the waterfront. Turn right and take a scenic stroll along the False Creek Seawall to Davie Street and the trendy heart of Yaletown.

9 ★★★ Blue Water Café + Raw Bar. Vancouver's greatest culinary asset is its fresh seafood, and among the most elegant and acclaimed settings to sample local, sustainable salmon, oysters, crab, and other delicacies from the deep is Blue Water. True to Vancouver's roots, the menu emphasizes an East-meets-West theme, with dishes like West Coast sablefish in miso sake glaze and (in the non-seafood department) Kobe-style beef short ribs. There's also an excellent raw and sushi bar. *1–2 hr. See p 93.*

Foodies flock to Barbara Jo's Books to Cooks for its huge selection of cookbooks and culinary tools.

Vancouver with Kids

1. Vancouver Aquarium
2. The Miniature Train
3. Concession Stands
4. Variety Kids Water Park
5. H.R. MacMillan Space Centre
6. Kitsilano Beach and Pool
7. Granville Island Kids Market
8. Science World at Telus World of Science

A central part of the "livability" for which Vancouver is so well known is its family-friendliness—as in, it's a good city in which to raise kids. Parks and beaches dot the landscape, cultural opportunities abound, and in neighborhoods like Yaletown, it seems as if everything from Starbucks to the designer toddler shops is stroller-friendly. This tour takes in the city's kid-friendly high points, many of them located close together in Stanley Park (p 84). Depending on the age and stamina of your kids, you might want to break this tour over 2 or even 3 days. **START: Stanley Park.**

The Vancouver Aquarium, one of the biggest in North America, focuses on species from the Northwest.

1 ★★★ Vancouver Aquarium. One of North America's largest and best, the Vancouver Aquarium focuses on Northwest species, with large pools for beluga whales, sea lions, Pacific white-sided dolphins, and sea otters, each of which offers views from both above and below water. There's also a jellyfish exhibit that's much more mesmerizing than you'd expect, plus tanks full of enormous freshwater fish, colorful tropical fish, frogs, piranhas, and sharks. Regular dolphin acrobatics shows and talks about various animals are held throughout the day, and those who want to shell out extra cash can go behind the scenes with the animal trainers and help feed the dolphins, belugas, sea lions, sea turtles, or (cutest of all, and cheapest) sea otters. *2 hr. 845 Avison Way. 604/659-3474. www.vanaqua.org. Admission C$27 adults, C$21 seniors/teens, C$17 kids 4–12. "Animal encounters" C$24–C$165. Daily 9:30am–7pm summer, 9:30am–5pm winter. Bus: 19.*

2 ★ The Miniature Train. This minirailroad chugs along a 2km (1¼-mile) track through the park's forest, passing over trestles and through tunnels along the way. One of the engines is a replica of Engine 374, which pulled the first transcontinental train into Vancouver in 1887. During summer, the train ride is transformed into a themed, First

The Miniature Train at Stanley Park is a family favorite.

Nations adventure, showing off the culture and history of Stanley Park's original native inhabitants. There are also Halloween- and Christmas-themed trains. 🕘 *15 min. Off Pipeline Rd., Stanley Park ☎ 604/257-8531. http://vancouver.ca/Parks/parks/stanley/fun.htm. C$6.25 adults, C$4.46 seniors and teens, C$3.13 kids 2–12 (themed trains cost a few dollars more). Mid-May to mid-Sept daily 10am–6pm; Feb–May Sat–Sun only 11am–4pm; Oct nightly 6–10pm; Dec nightly 3–10pm. Bus: 19.*

Near the Miniature Train, one of Stanley Park's large **3 concession stands** sells burgers, hot dogs, fish and chips, paninis, veggie dogs, veggie burgers, and other park food. *$.*

4 Variety Kids Water Park. Vancouver's largest "outdoor spray facility," this park consists of geysers, sprinklers, and water canons in a large play area. No swimming pools but a fun (and free) way to cool off during summer. 🕘 *20 min.–2 hr., depending on your kids. Located at km 3.25 along Park Dr., adjacent to Lumberman's Arch. Free admission. June 1–Sept 1 daily 10am–6pm. Bus: 19.*

The following attractions are all outside of Stanley Park, so if your kids are running on empty, end your tour here. If they still have energy to burn, take the False Creek Ferry (p 191) to Vanier Park for more stops.

5 ★ H.R. MacMillan Space Centre. Taking up half the big, cone-shaped building in Vanier Park, this very kid-friendly space museum offers a planetarium, a simulated space ride, displays on space flights, a theater for presentations on Canada's space program, and a room of interactive stations where you can, among other things, touch a moon rock, use a simulator to fly and dock the Space Shuttle, and prep a rocket for launch. 🕘 *1–2 hr. 1100 Chestnut St. ☎ 604/738-7827. www.spacecentre.ca. C$15 adults, C$10.75 seniors and kids. Mon–Fri 10am–3pm (Sat–Sun 10am–5pm); July 1 to Labour Day daily 10am–5pm. Bus: 2, 22.*

A network of walking paths leads west from the Space Centre, through Vanier Park and onto the white sands of:

6 ★★★ Kitsilano Beach and Pool. Who says Canada doesn't have great beaches? In summer, this is probably the trendiest strand

For kid-friendly watery fun, it's hard to beat the sprinklers and fountains at the Variety Kids Water Park.

Interactive stations at the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre allow aspiring astronauts to dock a space shuttle, among other galactic experiences.

in the city, lined with volleyball nets and hard-bodied coeds working on their tans. But Kits, as locals call it, is also family-friendly. Kids can swim in the calm, cool waters offshore (remarkably clean despite the proximity to the city) or take a plunge in Kitsilano Pool. At 137m (450 ft.), this heated, saltwater behemoth ranks as Canada's longest pool. A special area is reserved for families with small children. Great views of the ocean and snowcapped North Shore Mountains. *1–2 hr. 2305 Cornwall Ave., Kitsilano 604/257-8400. www.vancouver.ca/parks/rec/beaches/kitsb.htm. Beach free. Pool admission C$5.31 adults, C$3.71 seniors and teens, C$2.63 kids 3–12. Mon–Fri 7am–8:45pm, Sat–Sun 9am–8:45pm. Bus: 2, 22.*

Kids still aren't pooped? Catch a ferry from Vanier Park's Aquatic Centre to Granville Island.

7 ★ Granville Island Kids Market. Retail therapy for the wee ones, this century-old factory building on vibrant Granville Island has 28 shops, services, and activities for children spread over two floors. Shop for toys, from classics like LEGOs and remote-control cars to quirky handmade puppets and dolls. Stock up on magic sets, elaborate kites, and costumes. Or just plunk the kids down in the multilevel indoor adventure zone. *1 hr. 1496 Cartwright St., Granville Island. 604/689-8447. www.kidsmarket.ca. Daily 10am–6pm.*

Hop aboard a False Creek ferry one last time and get off at the glittering geodesic dome at the end of the inlet, Science World.

8 ★★ Science World at Telus World of Science. This huge, illuminated dome is a hands-on science center whose interactive exhibits include science projects, displays on how things work in the natural world and the human body, displays on creating a sustainable society, and a "Kidspace" learning environment with water, light, color, and movement themes geared to kids ages 2 to 6. There's also a large-screen Omnimax movie theater. An outdoor science park is expected to open in 2012. *2 hr. 1455 Quebec St., east end of False Creek. 604/443-7443. www.scienceworld.ca. C$21 adults, C$17.25 seniors/teens, C$14.25 kids 4–12. Daily 10am–6pm. SkyTrain: Main St./Science World station.*

Kids can interact with the exhibits at Science World at Telus World of Science.

Rainy Day Vancouver

1. Vancouver Aquarium
2. Vancouver Art Gallery
3. Mink
4. Hudson's Bay Co.
5. Irish Heather
6. Vancouver Police Museum
7. Mountain Equipment Co-op

Vancouver sits smack dab in the middle of a coastal temperate rainforest. Only the summer months of July to September can be counted on as reliably sunny. But foul weather doesn't mean vacation disaster. Many of Vancouver's charms—from its West Coast cafe culture to its vibrant museums—are best appreciated when it's wet outside. START: **The Vancouver Aquarium at Stanley Park.**

The Vancouver Art Gallery is perfect for rainy days.

1 ★★★ Vancouver Aquarium. It never rains underwater. Canada's largest aquarium is home to nearly 70,000 animals, including beluga whales, dolphins, and cute, cuddly sea otters. A new "4-D theatre" (3-D with smell-o-vision and touch effects) is also a crowd pleaser. *1–2hr. See p 37, 1.*

Take the #19 bus from the aquarium to downtown Vancouver. Get off at Granville and W. Pender streets and walk a few blocks to reach:

2 ★★ Vancouver Art Gallery. Wild and windswept canvasses from Vancouver's modernist legend Emily Carr are a reminder that inclement weather can be beautiful, too. *1–2 hr. See p 11, 9.*

Cafe culture thrives in rainy Vancouver. For something a bit different, visit **3 Mink**, which offers the usual lattes and Americanos, plus artisanal hot chocolates (up to 70% cacao) made with fresh chocolate ganache. *863 W. Hastings St. 604/633-2451. www.minkchocolates.com. $.*

4 ★ Hudson's Bay Co. Yes, this is the same Hudson's Bay Co. that dominated the fur trade in

The historic Hudson's Bay Co. is the country's best known department store.

Canada's far north for centuries. Today, the Bay has evolved into perhaps the country's best known department store, selling everything from microwaves to fur-trimmed winter hats. To bring home a real piece of Canadiana, browse the Hudson's Bay Collection, an assortment of blankets, hats, and even oars emblazoned with the 340-year-old company seal. *1 hr. 674 Granville St. 604/681-6211. www.thebay.com. Mon–Sat 9:30am–7pm (9pm Wed–Fri); Sun 11am–7pm.*

Exiting the Bay, raise your umbrella and walk north (toward the waterfront) on Richards Street. This veers sharply to the right after four blocks and turns into Water Street, historic Gastown's main drag.

With its close-clustered Victorian buildings, old street lamps, and cobblestone streets, Gastown is the perfect moody backdrop for a rainy day. Admire the scenery with a good pint inside the cozy confines of the **5 Irish Heather,** an atmospheric pub with brick walls, plenty of dark wood, and a menu with classics like steak-and-Guinness pie. *210 Carrall St. 604/688-9779. www.irishheather.com. $$.*

Exiting the pub, turn left on Carrall Street. At the first intersection, turn left on E. Cordova Street and walk three block to our next stop. (This is one of Vancouver's grittier streets. If you're uncomfortable walking, call a cab instead.)

6 ★★ Vancouver Police Museum. You'd expect a police museum to be a boring civic-pride affair. Not this one. The museum is housed in the old city coroner's office, whose autopsy room you can visit upstairs. There's also a display of famous local serial murders, both solved and unsolved. *1–2 hr. 240 E. Cordova St. 604/665-3346. www.vancouverpolicemuseum.ca. C$7 adults, C$5 seniors and students, free for kids 5 and under. Mon–Sat 9am–5pm. Bus: 4 or 7. Sins of the City Walking Tour $15. Dates and times vary.*

Call a cab to whisk you from the mean streets of downtown to bustling Broadway on the city's edge (about a 7-min. taxi ride). Have the driver drop you at the intersection of W. Broadway and Columbia streets at:

7 ★ Mountain Equipment Co-op. If you can't beat 'em, join 'em. Should the forecast call for more rain, consider heading to this Canadian outdoor gear giant for the consummate Vancouver accessory: the waterproof jacket. Apart from all things GoreTex, MEC also carries a truly impressive selection of hiking, climbing, and biking gear. *30 min. See p 78.*

Exhibits at the Vancouver Police Museum range from weapons to uniforms to an old autopsy room.

3 The Best Neighborhood Walks

Coal Harbour, Downtown & the West End

1. Devonian Harbour Park
2. Coal Harbour Park
3. Coal Harbour Seawall
4. Canada Place
5. The Marine Building
6. The Fairmont Hotel Vancouver
7. The Shangri-La
8. Alberni Street
9. Robson Street
10. Roedde House Museum
11. Denman Street
12. Cupcakes
13. A-maze-ing Laughter
14. Sylvia's Bar
15. English Bay Beach
16. Alexandra Park
17. The Inukshuk
18. Sunset Beach Seawall
19. Davie Street
20. Mole Hill
21. The Provincial Law Courts
22. Granville Street
23. Robson Square
24. The Vancouver Art Gallery
25. Christ Church Cathedral
26. The Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art

Previous page: You'll find great views at Coal Harbour Park.

Comprising much of Vancouver's central peninsula, these three neighborhoods virtually define the city's international image: Downtown with its finance firms, skyscrapers, and entertainment district, Coal Harbour with its ritzy condo buildings, and the West End with its tree-lined streets, beaches, and low-rise residential buildings. This tour takes you on a route through all three, testing the walkability that's such a big part of Vancouver's famed livability.

START: Corner of Denman and W. Georgia streets.

1 ★ Devonian Harbour Park. This small park filled with trees and walking paths offers good views of swanky Coal Harbour, both the yacht-lined marinas and high-rise-lined shores. It provides a natural buffer between the city and Stanley Park and bustles with tourists on rented bicycles. 🕘 ***10 min. Corner of Denman and W. Georgia sts. http://vancouver.ca/parks. Open 24 hr.***

Follow the seawall east along Coal Harbour (away from Stanley Park) to:

2 ★ Coal Harbour Park. This small, circular park growing atop the Coal Harbour Community Centre provides a great view of the harbor marina, where funky houseboats are moored among luxury yachts and sailboats. Off to the west, you can see Stanley Park as well as Deadman Island, a former Squamish burial ground that's now home to a Canadian Naval Reserves base. Across Burrard Inlet, Cypress Mountain, Grouse Mountain, and Mt. Seymour loom above the homes of North Vancouver. 🕘 ***10 min. Corner of Jervis & W. Hastings sts. http://vancouver.ca/parks. Open 24 hr.***

Exit down the stairs on the east side of the park and walk east along the promenade to:

3 ★★★ Coal Harbour Seawall. One of the city's loveliest urban promenades, this portion of the seawall borders the water and the open fields of Harbour Green Park, with high-end condominiums towering just behind. Notable sites along its length include the twin, sail-shaped Callisto and Carina condominium buildings behind the park, a new seaplane terminal where you can watch amphibious

Stroll along the scenic Coal Harbour Seawall for great people-watching opportunities.

Boating on the Harbor

Got an interest in how the busiest port on the west coast works? **Harbour Cruises** offer 1-hour tours of Burrard Inlet (May–Sept), concentrating on the working port and areas around Stanley Park. There's also a 2½-hour sunset dinner cruise option from May to mid-October. Ferries depart from a dock in Coal Harbour, near the foot of Denman Street. For info, call ☎ 604/688-7246 or check out www.boatcruises.com. One-hour tours cost C$30 adults, C$25 seniors and kids 12 to 17, C$10 kids 5 to 11. Sunset cruises cost C$75.

The view from the prow on a Harbour Cruise.

planes land and take off, and the beautifully situated (if pricey) Mill Marine Bistro & Bar. 🕘 ***30 min. The seawall stretches from Stanley Park in the west to the Convention Centre in the east.***

4 ★★ **Canada Place.** This two-building convention center, cruise ship terminal, and hotel/office complex was originally built as the Canada pavilion for World Expo '86 and was home to the world's first permanent IMAX 3-D theater. The newer western building, with its monumental green roof, was built in preparation for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games and is home to the city's Olympic cauldron. 🕘 ***20 min.*** ***See p 12, 11.***

After emerging at the intersection of Burrard and Cordova streets, walk south one block on Burrard to W. Hastings Street to see:

5 ★★★ **The Marine Building.** This gem of 1930s Art Deco, set in the midst of Vancouver's ultramodern downtown, often serves as a film and TV backdrop. If you walk south from its entrance, and turn around between W. Hastings and W. Pender streets, you can see its reflection in the bronze AXA Place building. 🕘 ***10 min. 355 Burrard St. Bus: 10 or 44. SkyTrain: Millennium, Expo, or Canada lines to Waterfront Station.***

Continue south along Burrard for 3 blocks and look up to see:

6 ★★ The Fairmont Hotel Vancouver. The sandstone carvings and gargoyles on the facade of this 1939 landmark took 10 international craftsmen an entire year to create. 🕘 *20 min. See p 12, 10.*

From here, walk 1 block down W. Georgia Street to see Vancouver's tallest building:

7 ★★ The Shangri-La. *See p 26, 1.*

Head a half-block south along Thurlow Street and turn left onto:

8 ★★ Alberni Street. Known as Vancouver's mini Rodeo Drive, this one-block strip is home to Tiffany, Brooks Brothers, and Betsey Johnson, as well as several restaurants popular among trendy young professionals, including Coast (p 94) for seafood and Italian Kitchen. 🕘 *30 min., more if you shop or stop to eat.*

Walk up Burrard Street to:

9 ★★★ Robson Street. One of Canada's hottest shopping stretches is named for John Robson (1824–92), the premier of British Columbia from

Alberni Street is home to several high-end retailers.

Shopping addicts can get their retail fix (and then some) on Robson Street.

1889 to 1892. In addition to major-league shopping, it's also home to a plethora of dining and people-watching opportunities. 🕘 *30 min., more if you shop or people-watch. See p 11, 8.*

Walk west on Robson Street and make a left onto Bute Street, passing Haro Street and crossing a small pocket-park to Barclay Street. You're now officially in the West End, central Vancouver's quintessential residential neighborhood. Turn right (west) on Barclay and walk 2 blocks, crossing Broughton Street to reach the:

10 ★ Roedde House Museum. Built in 1893 for German immigrants Gustav and Matilda Roedde, this modest but handsome Queen Anne Revival home was designed by Francis Rattenbury, architect of the magnificent Vancouver Art Gallery (p 11, 9). Today its interiors reflect the house's original 1893–1925 period, during the Roeddes' residence. On Sunday afternoons (2–4pm), tours are followed by tea and cookies. 🕘 *30–45 min. 1415 Barclay St. ☎ 604/684-7040. www.roeddehouse.org. Admission C$6 Sun, C$5 other days. Tues–Sun 1–4pm.*

Continue 4 blocks west on Barclay St. to bustling:

11 ★★ Denman Street. Lined with authentic, hole-in-the-wall ethnic eateries, everything from Ramen noodle houses to Korean barbecue joints and Ukrainian perogie shacks, Denman Street transects the entire western portion of downtown Vancouver. 🕘 *30 min., or longer if you stop to eat. See p 5,* 7.

Perhaps the cutest of Denman Street's dozens of snack, meal, and caffeine options is 12 **Cupcakes,** which serves just that—in mini, regular, and "Big One" sizes, and almost 20 different flavors. *1168 Denman St.* ☎ *604/974-1300. www.cupcakesonline.com. $.*

Cut across the intersection of Denman and Morton streets, then walk through the small triangular park, where you'll see:

13 A-maze-ing Laughter. Eerie and funny at once, this display of more than a dozen 10-foot-tall bronze statues—all of them in poses of hysterical laughter—is fast becoming a favorite photo-op in the city. Crafted by Chinese artist Yue Minjun based on his own facial features, the statues offer an oblique commentary on creative freedoms, or lack thereof, in China. 🕘 *5 min. Morton Park, at Denman and Davie sts.*

One of the dozen large bronze statues at the A-maze-ing Laughter display.

Thirsty? In the nearby vine-covered Sylvia Hotel, 14 **Sylvia's Bar** is Vancouver's oldest cocktail lounge, a woody, comfortable spot offering great views over the bay. There's also a light afternoon snack menu. *1154 Gilford St.* ☎ *604/681-9321. www.sylviahotel.com. $.*

15 ★★★ English Bay Beach. The logs along this beach (also known as First Beach) are a natural theater for Vancouver's famous sunsets, while the park that runs its length is a haven for joggers, strollers, and picnickers. 🕘 *30 min., or as long as you want to linger. See p 9,* 3.

Walk east on Beach Street to:

16 Alexandra Park. Front and center of this pretty, triangular park is a little fountain dedicated to Joe Fortes, a Barbadian sailor who moved to the city in 1885, lived in a cottage on English Bay Beach, and became its unofficial (and later official) lifeguard and swimming instructor, teaching all the local kids. When he died in 1922, Vancouver held the largest public funeral in its history in his honor. The memorial is inscribed "Little Children Loved Him." At the center of the park, the Haywood Bandstand gazebo sometimes offers free concerts on Sunday afternoons (1–3pm), from June to August. 🕘 *10 min. On Beach Ave. btw. Burnaby & Bidwell sts.*

From the southeast edge of the park, at Bidwell, walk down to the waterline to see:

17 ★ The Inukshuk. Abstract human forms with outstretched arms, inuksuit have long been used

by the Inuit as landmarks and navigation aids. More recently, they've become regional symbols of hospitality and were used as the emblem of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games. This one, made by Alvin Kanak of Canada's northern Nunavut Territory, stands about 6m (20 ft.) tall and weighs almost 31,500kg (70,000 lb.). 🕘 ***15 min. Located on English Bay, at Bidwell St.***

From here, continue southeast along the waterfront pedestrian promenade, soaking up views along the:

18 Sunset Beach Seawall. This section of Vancouver's impressive seawall winds along English Bay and into the mouth of False Creek, an inlet mistaken by early explorers as a river. Along the way, you'll see plenty of sandy swimming beaches, a moving memorial to the city's AIDS victims, the outline of the Art Deco Burrard Street Bridge, and, on the opposite shore, the green hills of Vanier Park. 🕘 ***15 min., or longer if you lounge on the beach.***

At the Sunset Beach memorial, turn left and walk up the grassy hillside to Jervis Street Continue north for 3 blocks to:

The immense inukshuk, symbol of the city's hospitality, was originally built for the 1986 World's Fair.

19 Davie Street. The epicenter of Vancouver's gay community, Davie Street also happens to be one of the most happening places in the city, period. You'll find dozens of cozy bistros and affordably priced ethnic eateries packed along this street of unassuming low-rise buildings. After dark, Davie boasts some of the most vibrant bars and clubs downtown. 🕘 ***30 min.***

Bill Reid

Victoria native Bill Reid (1920–98), born to a European-Canadian father and a Haida mother, was the most famous Northwest Coast First Nations artist of the latter 20th century. Beginning as a jeweler, Reid spent the 1950s rediscovering the complex principles of the region's traditional art, which at that time were all but lost. His subsequent works, including both jewelry and monumental bronze and cedar sculptures, are among the best known in the First Nations oeuvre. Some may be in your pocket right now: Four of his works are pictured on the C$20 bill. Many of his best works are on display at the UBC Museum of Anthropology (p 16, 6) and the Bill Reid Gallery (p 27, 5).

Continue southeast along Davie to Bute Street. Hang a left and proceed for 2 blocks to Comox Street. Take a right and you'll enter:

20 **Mole Hill.** This block, between Bute and Thurlow streets, opposite Nelson Park, contains the only intact stretch of houses dating from the original development in the West End, providing a view of what the whole area looked like in the early 20th century. Built primarily as rooming houses for laborers, the block's 36 homes are now run as a joint venture between BC Housing, the city, and the Mole Hill Community Housing Society, providing 168 rental units for low- and medium-income residents. *15 min.*

Turn left on Thurlow Street and make a right on Nelson Street, walking 2 blocks east to:

21 ★★ **The Provincial Law Courts.** One of Vancouver's most beautiful modern buildings, it's home to galleries, 35 courtrooms, and a number of public spaces. Its crowning glory (literally) is its glass roof, which covers an area nearly the size of an acre. *15 min.*

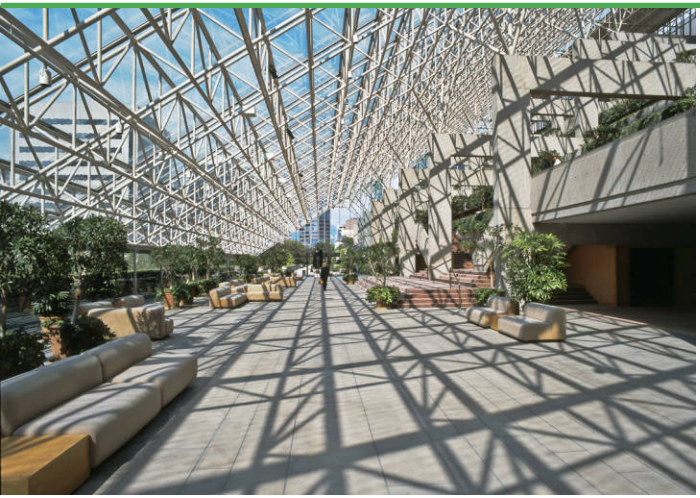
Continue east along Nelson Street for 2 blocks until you reach:

22 ★★ **Granville Street.** Not to be confused with Granville Island, Granville Street is the hub of Vancouver's entertainment district. Lined with bars, clubs, and music venues, it's a bit rough around the edges and more interesting for it. *15 min. See p 11,* 7.

Continue north for 2 blocks on Granville Street, then turn left on Robson Street and walk for 1 block to reach:

23 ★ **Robson Square.** Part of the same complex as the Law Courts, this public plaza and garden helped define Vancouver's modern look. Its most noticeable feature is an ice-skating rink under a geodesic dome, but intrepid walkers will also discover a lush rooftop oasis set above downtown's hustle-bustle. *10 min.*

The early-20th-century homes that make up Mole Hill are the only intact structures that date back to the original settlement of the West End.



The glass-roofed atrium of the Provincial Law Courts.

24 ★★ The Vancouver Art Gallery. Vancouver's premier fine art museum, originally a courthouse designed by Francis Rattenbury (1867–1935) and built between 1905 and 1913. The wide staircase, expansive lawn, and elaborate modern fountain at its West Georgia Street entrance are the site of frequent protests and rallies. ◴ *15 min. to see the building, 1½ hr. to see the art. See p 11,* 9.

Follow W. Georgia Street west to the corner of Burrard Street, where you'll find:

25 Christ Church Cathedral. Built between 1891 and 1895, this Anglican church was considered for demolition in the early 1970s to make room for a modern high-rise, but public outcry resulted in the Gothic Revival cathedral being named a city and provincial heritage building instead. Take a look inside to see its elaborate cedar wood beams and ceiling. ◴ *15 min. 690 Burrard St. www.cathedral.vancouver.bc.ca.*

26 ★★ The Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art. Masterworks by Vancouver's most noted First Nations artist (1920–98), housed in a lovely courtyard setting. ◴ *45 min. See p 27,* 5.

The elaborate stained-glass windows at Christ Church Cathedral depict various biblical scenes and Christian saints.

Gastown, Chinatown & Yaletown

1. The Vancouver Lookout
2. Waterfront Station
3. Water Street
4. The Steam Clock
5. Maple Tree Square
6. Vancouver Police Museum
7. Alibi Room
8. Kuomintang Building
9. Chinatown shopping
10. Chinese Tea Shop
11. Keefer Street and the new Chinatown
12. Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Garden & Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Park
13. Chinatown Millennium Gate
14. Sun Tower
15. BC Place Stadium
16. Vancouver Public Library & Library Square
17. Yaletown
18. The Roundhouse
19. Yaletown Marina & Marinaside Crescent

In ultramodern Vancouver, this is as close as you get to seeing what the city was like more than a century ago. Gastown is its oldest section, with many buildings dating to the 1880s. Both Chinatown and Yaletown grew in the 1890s, the former as home to Chinese laborers who built the railroads, the latter as a commercial and industrial district around the Canadian Pacific's western terminus. Today, they offer a dose of grit and cultural authenticity lacking elsewhere in the city and are arguably its trendiest and most exciting neighborhoods. **START: Corner of W. Hastings and Seymour streets.**

1 ★ The Vancouver Lookout. An enclosed, circular observation deck on the 28th floor of the Harbour Centre building (one of the city's tallest at 177m/581 ft.), the Lookout offers 360-degree views of the city: East Vancouver, Gastown, and the rail yards to the east; Yaletown to the south; the mountains and Burrard Inlet to the north; and Downtown, English Bay, Stanley Park, and the distant coastal mountains to the west. 🕘 ***45 min. 555 W. Hastings St. ☎ 604/689-0421. www.vancouverlookout.com. C$15 adults, C$12 seniors, C$10 teens 13–18, C$7 kids 6–12. Oct to late Apr daily 9am–9pm; May–Oct daily 8:30am–10:30pm.***

Walk 1 block north on Seymour Street to:

2 Waterfront Station. Built by the Canadian Pacific Railway between 1912 and 1914, this handsome Beaux Arts building was converted in the late 1970s into a full-service, intermodal station where passengers can board the SeaBus ferries to North Vancouver and the SkyTrain and West Coast Express trains to the near and distant 'burbs. Duck inside to see its classic "Age of Rail" interior, with its high ceiling and supporting columns. Up near the ceiling, paintings depict scenes you might have witnessed when taking the train across Canada 100 years ago. Just ignore the Starbucks and Subway down at floor level. 🕘 ***10 min. 601 W. Cordova St.***

Walk east on W. Cordova Street and bear left onto:

3 ★ Water Street. The central avenue of Gastown, Water Street is touristy, but it's also one of the city's oldest streets, lined with brick buildings that mostly date to the aftermath of the great 1886 fire that destroyed most of the city. In

The Vancouver Lookout offers unparalleled 360-degree views of the city.

Gastown's iconic Steam Clock vents every 15 minutes.

addition to kitschy souvenir stores and galleries selling First Nations art, Water Street is increasingly home to chic interior design shops and inviting gastropubs. 🕘 ***30–45 min. Btw. Richards & Carrall sts.***

4 ★ **The Steam Clock.** This bit of street furniture draws its power from an underground steam system that heats many area buildings. Designed by local "horologist" Raymond L. Saunders and erected in 1977, it hoots a version of the Westminster chimes every 15 minutes as steam vents from its top. 🕘 ***30 sec. if you're there when it whistles, longer if you have to wait. Northwest corner of Water & Cambie sts.***

5 ★ **Maple Tree Square.** Look here for a statue of Gassy Jack Deighton, the late-1800s barkeep whom the neighborhood is named after, standing atop a whiskey barrel. (In case you're wondering, in Victorian times, *gassy* was slang for talkative.) Behind the statue is the Byrnes Block (2 Water St.), a brick Victorian Italianate building erected in 1886–87 by Victoria realtor George Byrnes. It's one of the oldest buildings in Vancouver. Across the square, the Hotel Europe (43 Powell St.) was the city's first reinforced-concrete building, dating to 1908–09. It's notable for its wedge shape, its large cornice, and its original Italian tile work. 🕘 ***15 min. Intersection of Water, Carrall, Alexander & Powell sts.***

Walk 2 blocks east on Powell Street, turn right onto Main, then left onto Cordova Street to the:

6 ★★ **Vancouver Police Museum.** Housed in the 1932 Coroner's Courtroom and Laboratory building, this old-fashioned little museum traces the history of the Vancouver Police Department back to May 1886, when **John Stewart** became the city's first constable. Displays include weapons, drug paraphernalia, counterfeit currency, and police uniforms, but the creepy highlights are the old morgue and autopsy rooms, whose macabre displays will give you the willies. Weirdly, this is where Errol Flynn's autopsy was done, after he dropped dead after partying with his very young girlfriend in 1959. 🕘 ***30–45 min. 240 E. Cordova St.*** ☎ ***604/665-3346. www.vancouverpolicemuseum.ca. C$7 adults, C$5 seniors***

The statue of Gassy Jack Deighton, Gastown's namesake, in Maple Tree Square.

and kids 6–18, free for kids 5 and under. Mon–Sat 9am–5pm.

If you've worked up a thirst, and it's after 5pm, take a quick detour to the 7 **Alibi Room**, consistently rated Vancouver's best beer bar. It has some 50 craft beers on tap and a sophisticated little bar menu. *157 Alexander St. ☎ 604/623-3383. $.*

Proceed north on Main Street, crossing W. Hastings Street, which divides Gastown from Chinatown. Be forewarned, West Hastings is Vancouver's skid row: full of drug addicts and other questionable characters. Busy enough that it's more-or-less safe in daylight hours, the street is not at all pleasant, so cross it as fast as you can and try not to focus on the details. Take a left on East Pender Street and continue 1 block to the:

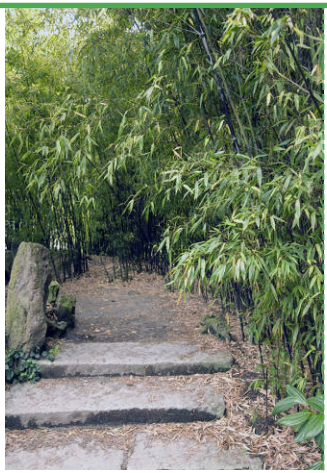
8 **Kuomintang Building.** Also known as the Nationalist League building, this structure was built in 1920 as the western Canadian headquarters of Kuomintang, a Chinese political party that ruled much of China from 1928 until 1949, when it was defeated by the communists and retreated to Taiwan, forming that island's separate Chinese government. Note the Taiwanese flags on the roof. Today the big yellow building marks the eastern edge of Vancouver's Chinatown. *5 min. 296 E. Pender St.*

9 ★ **Chinatown shopping.** Vancouver's Chinatown (centered on E. Pender and Keefer sts. btw. Carrall St. and Gore Ave.) is one of the largest in North America. Even though most of Vancouver's huge Asian population has moved to the suburbs, many return here to shop, keeping the area vital and lively. Along Pender between Gore and Main streets, low-rise buildings house dozens of open-air shops selling dried seafood and fruit, teas, herbs, and other foodstuffs. Look for bins of lizard-on-a-stick. The **Kiu Shun Trading Co.** (512 Main St.) is known for its traditional herbal cures. From Main Street to Columbia Street, you'll find many shops selling Chinese knickknacks, housewares, and other items. The best of the bunch is **Bamboo Village** (135 E. Pender St.), stuffed to the rafters with Chinese lanterns, hats, furniture, antiques, and more. *1 hr. E. Pender St., btw. Gore Ave. & Columbia St.*

Continue along Pender Street to the intersection with Columbia Street, where you'll find the:

10 ★★ **Chinese Tea Shop.** Inside this tiny store, tea expert Daniel Lui sells exotic leaves and blends from around the world. On request, he'll also walk you through a formal Chinese tea ceremony, an elaborate ritual of steeping and sipping. *15 min. 101 E. Pender St. ☎ 604/633-1322. www.thechineseteashop.com. Daily noon–6pm.*

Food from one of Chinatown's many food markets.



The Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Garden is a beautiful haven no matter what time of year you visit.

Take a left and proceed south 1 block along Columbia Street, which intersects with:

11 Keefer Street and the new Chinatown. This 1-block stretch of Keefer is home to a hip, younger side of Chinatown. Evening highlights include the Keefer Bar (133 Keefer St.), which serves custom cocktails and is dressed up as an opium den, and Bao Bei (163 Keefer St.), a chic, contemporary Chinese restaurant emphasizing light fare and locally sourced ingredients. ◴ *30 min., or longer if you linger. Btw. Columbia & Main sts.*

Head west along Keefer to Carrall Street, then take a right to find the side entrance to:

12 ★★★ Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Garden & Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Park. Named in honor of "The Father of Modern China" and first president of the Republic of China, this small classical garden and attached public park are a cultural highlight of Chinatown. On a budget? The free park's nearly as nice as the pay garden. ◴ *1 hr. 578 Carrall St. See p 16,* **4**.

Exit the garden along Carrall Street and turn right. Take a left onto Pender Street, where you'll see the:

The ornamental Chinatown Millennium Gate.

BC Place Stadium recently added a giant retractable roof.

13 Chinatown Millennium Gate. A symbol of Chinatown's past and future, this traditional ornamental gate (incorporating both eastern and western themes) was erected at the turn of the 20th century. Walk through it and then turn back around to get the intended "now entering Chinatown" effect—then say goodbye to Chinatown. 🕘 *5 min. Pender St.*

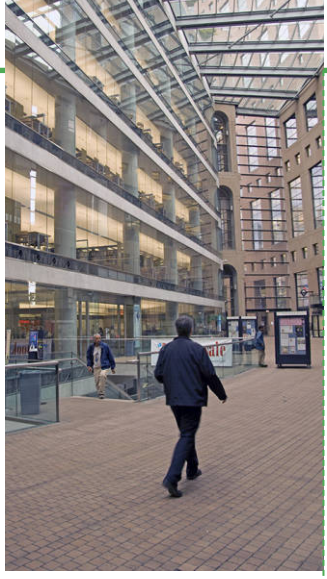
Continue along a gritty stretch of Pender Street to the foot of Beatty Street and the:

14 Sun Tower. The one-time home of the *Vancouver World* and later the *Vancouver Sun* newspapers, this 17-story beaux-arts tower was, at its 1912 opening, the tallest building in the British Empire. Look up its hexagonal tower to the domed, green-patina roof, which was designed to be seen from every point where the *Vancouver World* was sold. Below, topping the main body of the building, is a cornice supported by nine topless muses. They caused quite a scandal back in the day. 🕘 *5 min. Corner of W. Pender & Beatty sts.*

Take an immediate left onto Beatty Street and head south for 2 blocks. Just past the intersection with West Georgia Street, you'll see the front of:

15 BC Place Stadium. Home to the BC Lions of the Canadian Football League and the Whitecaps of Major League Soccer, the stadium is notable for its giant, retractable roof supported by metal spires, completed in 2011 at a cost of more than C$500 million. Just a block east along W. Georgia Street, you'll find its sister stadium, Rogers Arena, home of the Vancouver Canucks NHL team. 🕘 *15 min. 777 Pacific Blvd.* ☎ *604/669-2300. www.bcplace.com.*

Turn left onto W. Georgia Street and walk west 2 blocks to Hamilton. You may recognize this area as the infamous epicenter of the 2011 Vancouver hockey riots. It's also home to the:



The elliptically shaped main branch of the Vancouver Public Library holds more than 1.3 million items in its collection.

16 ★ Vancouver Public Library & Library Square. One of the city's most distinctive and well-used public spaces, the library (designed by renowned Israeli-Canadian architect Moshe Safdie and opened in 1995) looks like a skewed Roman Coliseum, one wall breaking free of the building's otherwise circular shape and spinning out in a wider arc, like the tail of a hurricane. A concourse takes up the space created by that errant wall, and is filled with cafes and shops; the library itself offers numerous workstations with free Internet access. 🕘 *10–15 min. 350 W. Georgia St.* ☎ *604/331-3603. www.vpl.ca/branches/details/central_library. Mon–Thurs 10am–9pm; Fri–Sat 10am–6pm; Sun noon–5pm.*

Exit at the other end of the library concourse, and walk to the corner of Hamilton and Robson streets. Continue walking 2 blocks south on Hamilton (which becomes Mainland St. after 1 block) to Nelson Street. You're now at the edge of:

17 ★★ Yaletown. This former warehouse district (centered on Hamilton, Mainline, and Davie sts.) is now one of Vancouver's trendier neighborhoods, mixing gleaming new high-rise residential towers with old warehouse buildings that have been converted into restaurants, bars, offices, and boutiques. Some 25 years after its revitalization began, modern Yaletown can still feel a bit contrived and soulless, but things heat up after dark, when the warehouse district is thronged with the young and prosperous. 🕘 *At least 1 hr., more if you want to poke around all the options.*

Walk south on either Hamilton Street or Mainline Street and make a left onto Davie Street, walking past Pacific Boulevard to:

Chinatown's Night Market

On weekend nights in summer, Chinatown's Keefer Street (btw. Gore Ave. and Columbia St.) is transformed into a prototypical outdoor Asian market, lined with stalls selling clothing, food, jewelry, music, and other bargain merchandise. Feel free to bargain. For more information, see www.vcma.shawbiz.ca. It's open Friday to Sunday 6:30 to 11pm, mid-May through early September.

18 ★ **The Roundhouse.** This classic, circular industrial building was once the western terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway and today functions as a community arts and recreation center. A glass-walled pavilion at its western end holds Engine 374, a perfectly preserved steam locomotive that pulled the first transcontinental train into Vancouver in 1887. The engine retired in 1945 and was restored between 1983 and 1986. 🕘 *15 min. 181 Roundhouse Mews. ☎ 604/713-1800. www.roundhouse.ca. Free admission, except for performances. Mon–Fri 9am–10pm; Sat–Sun 9am–5pm.*

Exit the Roundhouse and walk half a block farther southeast to:

19 ★ **Yaletown Marina & Marinaside Crescent.** A lovely spot surrounded by high-rise condos, this is where Yaletown's well-heeled seamen keep their boats and where you can catch the ferry to Granville Island, if the mood strikes. At the entrance to the Marina, Bernie Miller and Alan Tregebov's *Street Light* sculpture (1997) is an assembly of bronze I-beams supporting panels with images from Vancouver's past. On the anniversary of the events depicted, the sun's rays cast appropriate shadow images on the sidewalk. 🕘 *15–30 min. Intersection of Davie St. & Marinaside Crescent.*

The lovely Yaletown Marina is a great place for strolling, sunbathing, and taking in top-notch public art.

Kitsilano, Granville Island & Olympic Village

The Downtown peninsula may be the city's heart, but it's not the be-all and end-all. Immediately across English Bay, Kitsilano (aka "Kits") is home to the city's most popular beach, great shopping, and fantastic restaurants. Between Kits and Downtown, the old industrial site of Granville Island is now packed with markets, art studios/galleries, and theaters, while nearby Olympic Village is the city's spiffiest, and most controversial, new neighborhood.

START: 4th Avenue and Cypress Street (just west of Burrard St.).

1 ★ 4th Avenue Shopping. The 4 blocks of 4th Avenue between Cypress and Vine streets (uphill in this direction) comprise one of Vancouver's densest and most enjoyable shopping stretches. Highlights include the inimitable Zulu Records (p 78), Ming Wo Cookware (p 76), and Wanderlust, selling travel gear, books, and maps (p 72). *At least 1 hr.*

Après shopping, head north (downhill) on Yew Street to Cornwall Avenue and the entrance to:

2 ★★ kids Kits Beach. That's English Bay out in front of you, on the other side of all the sunbathers, joggers, volleyball and tennis players, and sun-seeking Vancouverites. To your left is the saltwater Kitsilano Pool, at 137m (450 ft.) the largest of its kind in Canada. Beyond the water you can see the West End, with the snowcapped North Shore Mountains far off in the distance. Start following the walking path east (right) along the sand, where logs have been placed for you to sit on. *1 hr. The beach runs roughly from Yew to Maple St. Kits Pool is at 2305 Cornwall Ave. ☎ 604/731-0011. Open mid-May to mid-Sept. Hours vary. Pool fees C$5.31 adults, C$3.71 seniors and teens, C$2.63 kids 3–12.*

Continue east along the path that edges the beach, following it around a wide, tree-lined curve. On your left you'll see:

3 ★ Dog Beach. One of the happiest places in Vancouver, where the city's dog people bring their pups to chase each other around the sand, swim, and dig holes. *30 min. for pugs, 8 hr. for Labs. Near the intersection of Maple St. & Ogden Ave., just before Vanier Park. http://vancouver.ca/parks/info/dogparks/index.htm.*

4 ★★ kids Vanier Park. Located just east of Kits Beach, Vanier Park feels miles removed

Kits Beach is a wonderful place to soak up some sun while taking in gorgeous mountain views.

from busy Downtown. Popular year-round with kite flyers, it gets busy in summer when Bard on the Beach sets up its tents for the season (p 113). The park is also home to three major museums (see 5–7). *30–45 min. 1000 Chestnut St. 604/257-8400. Bus: 2, 22. Also accessible from downtown via False Creek ferries from the Aquatic Centre, 1050 Beach Ave., at Thurlow St.*

5 ★ Vancouver Maritime Museum. The main exhibit inside this enormous A-frame building is the St. Roch, an actual Arctic exploration schooner used by the Mounties from 1929 to 1954. Make sure to also look at the museum's Small Boat Repair Dock, home to several historic boats and ships. This is where you can catch the ferry to Downtown. *45 min. 1905 Ogden Ave. 604/737-2621. www.vancouvermaritimemuseum.com. C$11 adults, C$8.50 seniors and kids 6–18. Tues–Sat 10am–5pm; Sun noon–5pm.*

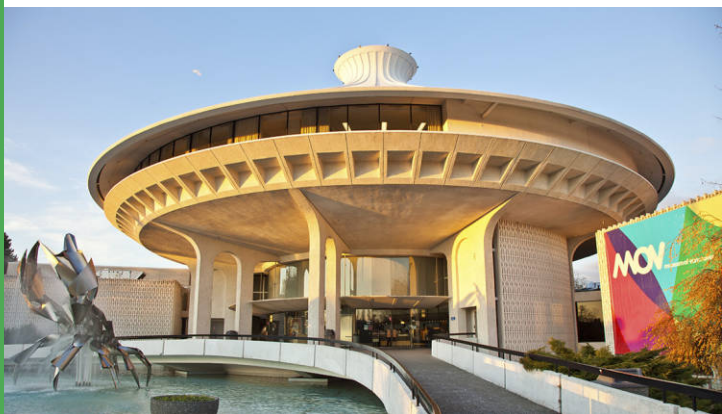
6 ★ H.R. MacMillan Space Centre. *1 hr. See p 38, 5.*

7 The Vancouver Museum. In the same cone-shaped building as the Space Centre, the Vancouver Museum is literally that: a museum of Vancouver and its history from the time of the First Nations to the boom years of the early 20th century and up until today. The story is told through artifacts, dioramas, movies, photos, and objects set up in themed rooms, including one dedicated to the '50s and another to Vancouver's hippie era. Temporary displays focus on specific aspects of the city, past and present. *45 min. 1100 Chestnut St. 604/736-4431. www.museumofvancouver.ca. C$12 adults, C$10 seniors, C$8 kids 5–17. Wed–Sun 10am–5pm (until 8pm Thurs; during July–Aug also open Mon–Tues 10am–5pm).*

Return to the shore walk and continue east into the parking lot, past the public boat ramp and the gray Canadian Coast Guard station. Take a look up as you pass below the:

8 ★ Burrard Street Bridge. Completed in 1932 and designed as a ceremonial gateway to the city (beyond its function of connecting the peninsula to the West Side), the bridge mixes a utilitarian steel span with large concrete towers embellished with Art Deco sculptural details. Walk across the bridge some other day (south to north) if you have time, preferably at sunset. *2 min.*

A giant steel crab fountain (a Haida symbol of protection) marks the entrance to the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre.



Walking the Burrard Street Bridge at sunset is a quintessential Vancouver experience.

After passing under the bridge, follow the curve of the path, climb the stairway to the left (at the orientation sign), and walk along the path that runs between the parking lot and the parking garage of the Clipper building. At the end of the walkway, go up the short stairway into Creekside Park, a privately maintained park with a nice view of the marina and Downtown. Walk past the fountain and take the stairs down to the T intersection of 1st Avenue and Creekside Drive. Walk left past the blue tin shack into the parking lot for:

9 ★ Go Fish! & False Creek Fisherman's Wharf. *30 min. See p 34, 4.*

Continue along the pathway past Go Fish! and two residential buildings fronted by private lagoons. At Anderson Street, follow the blue railing to the left onto Granville Island, then make a right onto Cartwright Street.

Drop in for a pint at the **10 Granville Island Brewing Company,** among Vancouver's first microbreweries (though now owned by beer behemoth Molson Coors). If you time it right, you can also take a tour of the brewery and taste three of their beers, including their current limited-release brew. *1441 Cartwright St. ☎ 604/687-2739. www.gib.ca. Taproom daily noon–8pm. Tours at noon, 2 & 4pm daily, C$9.75.*

11 ★★★ Granville Island. Foodies can browse the giant Public Market (p 33, 1); art lovers can see the galleries at the Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design and along Railspur Alley (p 31, 21); shoppers can indulge at dozens of boutiques, artisan workshops, and ateliers; and everyone can enjoy the great post-industrial-but-somehow-natural location. Highlights include the street performers,

Chow down at some of the city's freshest seafood at Go Fish!

The False Creek Seawall threads past marinas and condos.

and the flocks of pigeons who circle the square outside the Public Market, descending when they spot a likely mark. 🕘 ***2 hr., more if you take in a show. See p 10, 5.***

Leave Granville Island the way you came in, and take a left along the pedestrian walkway that threads east. Walk through tiny Sutcliffe Park, with its pricey condos, and you'll find yourself along the False Creek inlet once again. Enjoy the waterfront stroll as you work your way to:

12 ★★ Charleson Park. Virtually unvisited by tourists (not to mention Vancouverites), this expansive park—with fields, a bit of forest, and a small lagoon—offers great views of the downtown skyline, visible across False Creek inlet. On a nice day, it's an ideal spot for a waterfront picnic—just watch out for the happy dogs that romp in the park's off-leash zone. 🕘 ***15-30 min. 6th Ave., roughly btw. Oak & Willow sts.***

Continue walking east on the False Creek Waterfront along the:

13 ★★ False Creek Seawall. A largely overlooked section of Vancouver's enormous waterfront promenade, this stretch of seawall threads past marinas and condos, beneath the Cambie Street Bridge, and past reclaimed industrial land now sprouting brand new high-rise apartment towers. Don't miss the tiny, man-made island jutting out into False Creek: At low tide, you can access it via a boulder-strewn isthmus and get some great photos of downtown Vancouver. 🕘 ***30 min. Seawall can be accessed virtually anywhere along False Creek inlet.***

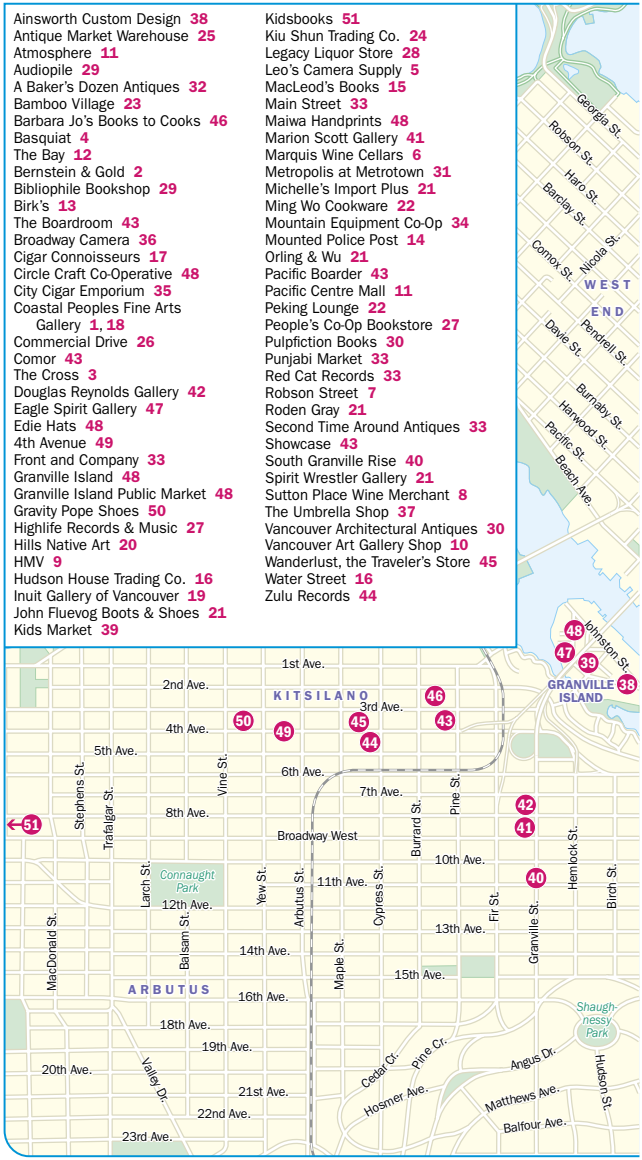
Continue walking west along the False Creek Seawall to:

14 ★★ Olympic Village. Vancouver's newest neighborhood, this eight-square-block cluster of high-rises was built expressly to house athletes during the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, at a cost of more than $1 billion. Reviled by many taxpayers, it's slowly filling up with residents and is worth a look for its gorgeous waterfront and progressive green architecture. (It's one of the largest LEED-Platinum–rated neighborhoods in the world.) It's also home to the province's largest and best stocked liquor store, Legacy (p 78). 🕘 ***30–45 min. 2nd Ave., btw. Columbia & Ontario sts. SkyTrain: Canada Line to Olympic Village station. Also accessible from downtown via ferry from outside Plaza of Nations building, 750 Pacific Blvd.*** ●

4 The **Best Shopping**

Vancouver Shopping

Ainsworth Custom Design 38
Antique Market Warehouse 25
Atmosphere 11
Audiopile 29
A Baker's Dozen Antiques 32
Bamboo Village 23
Barbara Jo's Books to Cooks 46
Basquiat 4
The Bay 12
Bernstein & Gold 2
Bibliophile Bookshop 29
Birk's 13
The Boardroom 43
Broadway Camera 36
Cigar Connoisseurs 17
Circle Craft Co-Operative 48
City Cigar Emporium 35
Coastal Peoples Fine Arts Gallery 1, 18
Commercial Drive 26
Comor 43
The Cross 3
Douglas Reynolds Gallery 42
Eagle Spirit Gallery 47
Edie Hats 48
4th Avenue 49
Front and Company 33
Granville Island 48
Granville Island Public Market 48
Gravity Pope Shoes 50
Highlife Records & Music 27
Hills Native Art 20
HMV 9
Hudson House Trading Co. 16
Inuit Gallery of Vancouver 19
John Fluevog Boots & Shoes 21
Kids Market 39
Kidsbooks 51
Kiu Shun Trading Co. 24
Legacy Liquor Store 28
Leo's Camera Supply 5
MacLeod's Books 15
Main Street 33
Maiwa Handprints 48
Marion Scott Gallery 41
Marquis Wine Cellars 6
Metropolis at Metrotown 31
Michelle's Import Plus 21
Ming Wo Cookware 22
Mountain Equipment Co-Op 34
Mounted Police Post 14
Orling & Wu 21
Pacific Boarder 43
Pacific Centre Mall 11
Peking Lounge 22
People's Co-Op Bookstore 27
Pulpfiction Books 30
Punjabi Market 33
Red Cat Records 33
Robson Street 7
Roden Gray 21
Second Time Around Antiques 33
Showcase 43
South Granville Rise 40
Spirit Wrestler Gallery 21
Sutton Place Wine Merchant 8
The Umbrella Shop 37
Vancouver Architectural Antiques 30
Vancouver Art Gallery Shop 10
Wanderlust, the Traveler's Store 45
Water Street 16
Zulu Records 44



Previous page: Punjabi Market sells a variety of Indian merchandise, from saris to handbags.

0
1/2 mi
0
1/2 km
Coal Harbour
Burrard Inlet
Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre
Waterfront
Waterfront Sta.
Waterfront Rd
Portside Park
Alexander St.
Powell St.
Cordova St.
Hastings St.
Pender St.
Broughton St.
Jervis St.
Alberni St.
Melville St.
Pender St.
Hastings St.
Burrard
Granville
Georgia St.
Richards St.
GASTOWN
Abbott St.
Carrall St.
Columbia St.
Main St.
Gore Ave.
CHINATOWN
Dunsmuir St.
Howe St.
Robson St.
Granville St.
Seymour St.
Homer St.
Hamilton St.
Cambie St.
Stadium
Livingstone Park
Georgia St.
Prior St.
Burrard St.
Hornby St.
Heincken St.
Davie St.
Drake St.
Nelson St
Smithe St.
Beatty St.
B.C. Place Stadium
YALE-TOWN
Pacific Blvd.
Creekside Park
Pacific Central Sta.
Main St.
David Lam Park
Cambie Bridge
1st Ave.
2nd Ave.
3rd Ave.
4th Ave.
5th Ave.
6th Ave.
7th Ave.
8th Ave.
Broadway West
10th Ave.
12th Ave.
13th Ave.
14th Ave.
15th Ave.
16th Ave.
17th Ave.
18th Ave.
19th Ave.
20th Ave.
21st Ave.
22nd Ave.
Industrial Ave.
False Creek
Charleson Park
Charleson St.
Quebec St.
Main St.
Scotia St.
Brunswick St.
Guelph Park
Kingsway
St. George St.
Yukon St.
Manitoba St.
Ontario St.
Alberta St.
Ash St.
Oak St.
Spruce St.
Alder St.
Laurel St.
Heather St.
Cambie St.
Columbia St.
Willow St.
Tupper St.
Yukon St.
Sophia St.
Prince Edward St.
FAIRVIEW
MOUNT PLEASANT
Nelson Park
Thurlow St.
Bute St.
Davie St.
Wolfe Ave.
Osler St.
Douglas Park

Shopping Best Bets

Best Place to **Prep for an Indian Wedding**
★ Punjabi Market, *Main St., btw. 49th & 51st sts. (p 69)*

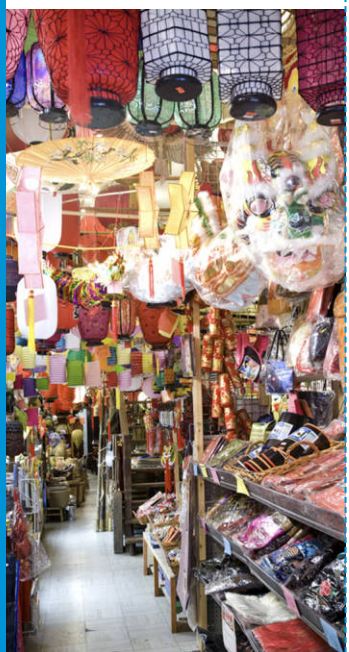
Best **Radical Bookstore**
★ People's Co-Op Bookstore, *1391 Commercial Dr. (p 71)*

Best Place for **Chinese Herbal Cures**
★★ Kiu Shun Trading Co., *512 Main St. (p 73)*

Best Store for a **Rainy Day**
★★ The Umbrella Shop, *1106 W. Broadway (p 74)*

Best Place for **One-Off Boutiques and Second-Hand Clothing Stores**
★★ Main Street, *btw. 7th and 29th aves. (p 69)*

Bamboo Village is covered from floor to ceiling with Chinese knickknacks.



Best **Big-Name, Big-Label Shopping**
★★★ Robson St., *btw. Hornby & Jervis sts. (p 69)*

Best Place for **First Nations Art**
★★★ Water St., *in Gastown (p 70)*

Best Shop for **Outdoors & Sports Gear**
★★★ Mountain Equipment Co-op, *130 W. Broadway (p 78)*

Best **Rock/Pop Record Shop**
★ Zulu Records, *1972 W. 4th Ave. (p 78)*

Best Place for **Cookbooks**
★★★ Barbara Jo's Books to Cooks, *1740 W. 2nd Ave. (p 71)*

Best Place for **Skateboards**
★★ Shops at intersection of Fourth & Burrard sts. *(p 69)*

Best **Camera Shop**
★★★ Broadway Camera, *1055 W. Broadway (p 72)*

Best **Canadian Kitsch Outlet**
Hudson House Trading Co., *321 Water St. (p 72)*

Best **Vintage and New Housewares**
★★ The Cross, *1198 Homer St. (p 76)*

Best **Classic Department Store**
★ The Bay, *674 Granville St. (p 76)*

Best **Chinese Cookware**
★ Ming Wo Cookware, *23 E. Pender St. (p 76)*

Best for **High-Design Chinese Furniture & Gifts**
★★ Peking Lounge, *83 E. Pender St. (p 73)*

Best for **Chinese Knickknacks**
★ Bamboo Village, *135 E. Pender St. (p 73)*

Vancouver Shopping A to Z

For unique boutique shopping and top-notch coffee bars, head to Commercial Drive.

A-List Shopping Neighborhoods

★★ **Commercial Drive** EAST VANCOUVER Lest you leave Vancouver thinking it's all high-end swank and trendy coffee bars, visit Commercial Drive, where old and new counterculture mix with old-world Italian cafes, Jamaican food stores, Portuguese social clubs, and a slew of interesting boutiques and shops. ***Btw. E. 6th Ave. & Venables St. www.thedrive.ca. SkyTrain: Commercial-Broadway Station. Bus: 99B, 10, 16. Map p 66.***

★★ **4th Avenue** KITSILANO Vancouver's original hippie neighborhood grew up a long time ago, and now offers a wonderful 6-block shopping stretch full of new and used clothing shops, bookstores, and furniture and housewares stores for the happy West Sider—plus lots of coffee shops and restaurants. ***Btw. Balsam & Burrard sts. www.kitsilano4thavenue.com. Bus: 4, 7, 44. Map p 66.***

★★★ **Granville Island** See p 10, 5. ***Bus: 50. Ferries: Aquabus or False Creek (p 10, 4). Map p 66.***

★★ **Main Street** EAST VANCOUVER Head to Main Street (on the border btw. E. Van and the West Side) for funky clothing boutiques and the city's "Antique Row" stores (p 70). ***Main St., btw. 7th & 29th aves. Bus: 3. Map p 66.***

★ **Punjabi Market** WEST SIDE Canada gives way to India along 2 short blocks on an otherwise uninteresting stretch of Main Street. Shops selling Indian ethnic clothing, jewelry, bridal goods, housewares, and knickknacks are interspersed with Hindi video stores, cafes, and Indian restaurants. ***Main St., btw. 49th & 51st aves. Bus: 3. Map p 66.***

★★★ **Robson Street** WEST END This is the best location in town for big-name, big-label shopping, with dozens of shops crammed into just a few blocks. Expect lots of clothing (Ferragamo, bebe, Roots, Armani, lululemon, and more), big music retailers such as HMV, and lots of places to caffeinate. ***Robson St., btw. Hornby & Jervis sts. Bus: 5. Map p 66.***

★★★ **South Granville Rise** SOUTH GRANVILLE High-end shops stand shoulder to shoulder along 11 blocks of Granville Street, south of False Creek. Expect lots of housewares (from Oriental rugs to kitchen gear), clothing boutiques,

Vancouver's Antique Row

Main Street marks the boundary between glitzy Vancouver and grittier East Vancouver; it's the city's number-one neighborhood for antiques, from traditional 18th- and 19th-century furniture through trendy modern retro items from the 1950s, '60s, and '70s. Standouts include **A Baker's Dozen** (3520 Main St.; ☎ 604/879-3348), **Vancouver Architectural Antiques** (north of the other shops at 2403 Main St.; ☎ 604/872-3131), and **Second Time Around** (4428 Main St.; ☎ 604/879-2313). Bus: 3.

and interesting knickknack shops. Vancouver's "Gallery Row" (p 31, 23) stretches from 5th Avenue to Broadway, with numerous world-class art galleries. ***Granville St., btw. 5th & 16th aves. www.southgranville.org. Bus: 98B, 10. Map p 66.***

★★★ **Water Street** GASTOWN Water Street is basically a funnel into which the cruise ships that dock at Canada Place pour their passengers, but it still offers more than the usual tourist shops. It's got several of the best shops in town selling quality First Nations art (p 74), plus numerous interior design and clothing shops catering to Vancouver's moneyed professionals. ***Water St., btw. Waterfront Station & Carrall St. Bus: 50. SkyTrain: Waterfront Station. Map p 66.***

Antiques & Recycled Furniture

★★★ **Antique Market Warehouse** EAST VANCOUVER This Antique Row mainstay moved north a while back, into larger digs that can better accommodate its huge stock of antique furniture, architectural salvage (stained-glass windows, wrought-iron gates, and more), Chinese antiques, and so forth. ***1324 Franklin St. ☎ 604/875-1434. www.antiquesdirect.ca. MC, V. Bus: 10, 16, 4, 7. Map p 66.***

★ **A Baker's Dozen Antiques** EAST VANCOUVER One of the city's "Antique Row" shops, specializing in 19th-century furniture, paintings, folk art, and antique toys. ***3520 Main St. ☎ 604/879-3348. AE, MC, V. Bus: 3. Map p 66.***

★★★ **Second Time Around Antiques** EAST VANCOUVER This ample showroom is crammed with vintage furnishings from Europe as well as a good collection of Canadiana—the simple, hefty wood desks, tables, and chairs favored by early

For a good assortment of 19th-century furniture and art, try A Baker's Dozen Antiques.

Wanderlust has an excellent selection of travel books.

Canucks. ***4428 Main St. ☎ 604/879-2313. www.sta-antiques.com. MC, V. Bus: 3. Map p 66.***

★★ Vancouver Architectural Antiques EAST VANCOUVER Big-ticket, museum-quality pieces for your home. Browse Victorian furniture, stained-glass windows, old tapestries, and plenty of period lamp fixtures. It also has some neat bronze busts of forgotten men. ***2403 Main St. ☎ 604/872-3131. www.vaalt.ca. AE, MC, V. Bus: 50. Map p 66.***

Books

★★★ Barbara Jo's Books to Cooks WEST SIDE A cookbook mecca, stocking thousands of cookbooks, wine books, and periodicals from around the world, for both amateurs and professionals. Cooking classes and recipe demos from featured books are presented in the open kitchen along the back wall. ***1740 W. 2nd Ave. ☎ 604/688-6755. www.bookstocooks.com. AE, MC, V. Bus: 44. Map p 66.***

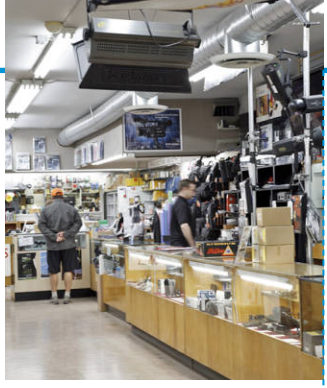
★ Bibliophile Bookshop EAST VANCOUVER Cozy used bookstore along Commercial Drive, with fiction and nonfiction in nearly new condition. ***2010 Commercial Dr. ☎ 604/254-5520. MC, V. Bus: 99B, 10, 16. SkyTrain: Broadway Station. Map p 66.***

★★ Kidsbooks KITSILANO Vancouver's largest and most interesting selection of children's books, plus toys, games, crafts kits, and puppets. Check their website for a schedule of readings. ***3083 W. Broadway. ☎ 604/738-5335. www.kidsbooks.ca. AE, MC, V. Bus: 99B, 9. Map p 66.***

MacLeod's Books DOWNTOWN One of those dusty, totally chaotic, books-stacked-everywhere used-tome shops—the kind book lovers can dig through for hours. ***455 W. Pender St. ☎ 604/681-7654. MC, V. Bus: 6. Map p 66.***

★ People's Co-Op Bookstore EAST VANCOUVER Open since 1945, this little shop carries books and periodicals dealing with left-leaning politics, social justice, environmental responsibility, and related topics. Viva la revolucion! ***1391 Commercial Dr. ☎ 604/253-6442. www.peoplescoopbookstore.com. MC, V. Bus: 99B, 10, 16. Map p 66.***

★★ Pulpfiction Books EAST VANCOUVER Consistently ranked Vancouver's best used book store, this gem has meticulously organized shelves with a selection of classics, local publications, and, of course, pulp fiction. The staff is especially knowledgeable. ***2422 Main St.***



Leo's Camera Supply has been catering to shutterbugs for more than 50 years.

☎ 604/876-4311. www.pulpfictionbooksvancouver.com. AE, MC, V. Bus: 3. Map p 66.

★ **Wanderlust, the Traveler's Store** KITSILANO This exceptionally large travel store stocks Frommer's, of course, but it also stocks a huge selection of travel literature, phrase books, and many, many specialized local and regional guides—plus luggage, maps, and travel accessories too. *1929 W. 4th Ave. ☎ 604/739-2182. www.wanderlustore.com. AE, MC, V. Bus: 4, 7, 44. Map p 66.*

Cameras

★★★ **Broadway Camera** WEST SIDE A rarity in the camera world, this store has staff that are both extremely knowledgeable and extremely nice, plus a very good selection of the latest gear. A bit pricier than the big guys, but well worth it. *1055 W. Broadway. ☎ 604/733-9282. www.bccamera.com. MC, V. Bus: 9, 99. SkyTrain: Broadway-City Hall. Map p 66.*

★★★ **Leo's Camera Supply** DOWNTOWN In business for more than 50 years, Leo's has a reputation as one of western Canada's very best photo shops, with everything from point-and-shoots to large-format film cameras and darkroom equipment. *1055 Granville St. ☎ 604/685-5331. www.leoscamera.com. MC, V. Bus: 50. SkyTrain: City Centre Station. Map p 66.*

Canadian Kitsch

Hudson House Trading Co. GASTOWN What corny Canadian item do you want? Maple syrup and cookies? Smoked salmon? Toy inuksuit? Moose teddy bears? Pretty much any item of clothing emblazoned with a maple leaf? Look no further. *321 Water St. ☎ 604/687-4781. www.hudsonhousetrading.com. AE, DC, MC, V. Bus: 50. SkyTrain: Waterfront Station. Map p 66.*

Michelle's Import Plus GASTOWN Hudson House doesn't have that moose T-shirt in your size? Try here. Their selection is nearly identical. *73 Water St. ☎ 604/687-5930. AE, MC, V. Bus: 50. SkyTrain: Waterfront Station. Map p 66.*

Mounted Police Post GASTOWN This little shop near Waterfront Station stocks all things Royal Canadian Mounted Police: clothing, books, teddy bears (in RCMP uniforms, of course), knickknacks, and so forth. Too corny. Too cute. *767 W. Cordova St. ☎ 604/605-5557.*

If you're looking for that perfect kitschy souvenir, you can't do better than Hudson House.

www.mountieshop.com. AE, MC, V. Bus: 50. SkyTrain: Waterfront Station. Map p 66.

Chinese Goods

★ **Bamboo Village** CHINATOWN Arguably Chinatown's best selection of Chinese stuff: lanterns, furniture, antiques, Mao kitsch, china, drums and gongs, and thousands of other items, crammed floor to rafters into a long storefront. *135 E. Pender St. ☎ 604/662-3300. AE, MC, V. Bus 19, 22. Map p 66.*

★★ **Kiu Shun Trading Co.** CHINATOWN Back bothering you? Sore throat? Chi a little off? Kiu Shun might be able to help. Established here in 1977 (but extending back more than 130 years as a family business), it advocates a holistic approach to health, seeking to keep all the body's functions in balance. Staff will recommend herbal treatments for what ails you, and there's also an acupuncturist working onsite. *512 Main St. ☎ 604/669-1834. www.kiushun.com/english. MC, V. Bus 19, 22. Map p 66.*

★★ **Peking Lounge** CHINATOWN Much more high-style than your average Chinatown shop, Peking Lounge is a place where century-old furniture is displayed beside pieces by contemporary Chinese designers—from modern reinterpretations of traditional lanterns to Buddha throw pillows in bright, pop art colors. *83 E. Pender St. ☎ 604/844-1559. www.pekinglounge.com. MC, V. Bus 19, 22. Map p 66.*

Clothing, Shoes & Accessories

★ **Basquiat** YALETOWN This chic boutique offers upscale European and American women's fashion that's "classic with an edge." Clothing emphasizes simple lines and muted colors, and they also sell scarves, hats, and shoes. *1189 Hamilton St. ☎ 604/688-0828. www.basquiat.ca. AE, MC, V. Bus: 6, C21, C23. SkyTrain: Yaletown Station. Map p 66.*

All are encouraged to try on the many options for sale at the very fun Edie Hats.

★ **Edie Hats** GRANVILLE ISLAND Hat shops are almost inherently fun, and this one definitely is, with an interior like a little social parlor and fabulous (if pricey) hats for men and women stacked everywhere. Go ahead—try one on. *The Net Loft Building, 1666 Johnston St. ☎ 604/683-4280. http://ediehats.com. AE, MC, V. Bus: 50. Ferries: Aquabus or False Creek. Map p 66.*

★ **Front and Company** EAST VANCOUVER A favorite of Main Street's hipsters, this airy shop known for its window displays sells funky consignment clothing, as well as endless cute home accessories. *3772 Main St. ☎ 604/879-8431. www.frontandcompany.ca. MC, V. Bus: 3. Map p 66.*

★ **Gravity Pope Shoes** KITSILANO Shoes and clothing for men and women by hard-to-find and independent designers. The space is totally hip and minimalist, with a white Carrara marble floor and lighting fixtures from a 1920s ocean liner. *2205 4th Ave. ☎ 604/731-7673. www.gravitypope.com. AE, DC, MC, V. Bus: 4, 7, 44. Map p 66.*

★★ **John Fluevog Boots & Shoes** GASTOWN Vancouver's own avatar of funky footwear opened this over-the-top store in 2008, a cavernous space with a glass roof 14m (45 ft.) up, brick walls to either side, and views of the North Vancouver mountains out the back. The main floor could fit 10,000 shoes instead of the few carefully chosen and oh-so-hip pairs on display. The second floor contains the Fluevog Design Studio. *65 Water St. ☎ 604/688-6228. www.fluevog.com. AE, MC, V. Bus: 50. SkyTrain: Waterfront Station. Map p 66.*

★★ **Maiwa Handprints** GRANVILLE ISLAND Imported, naturally dyed, and block-printed silk, linen, and cotton clothing for women, plus embroidered handbags, amazing bedding, and other textiles. The company is run on an ethical business model, with artisans paid a large advance and given full artistic control over their work. *Net Loft Building, 1666 Johnston St. ☎ 604/669-3939. www.maiwa.com. MC, V. Bus: 50. Ferries: Aquabus or False Creek (p 10, 4). Map p 66.*

★ **Roden Gray** GASTOWN Consistently voted Vancouver's best independent men's store, this boutique, with its minimalist interior, features hard-to-find jeans and shirts from designers like Wings+Horns and SNS Herning. *8 Water St. ☎ 604/689-7302. www.rodengray.com. AE, MC, V. Bus: 50. SkyTrain: Waterfront Station. Map p 66.*

★★ **The Umbrella Shop** GRANVILLE ISLAND Established in 1932 by Polish immigrant Isadore Flader, Vancouver Umbrella (this store's parent company) is both a manufacturer and retailer, with several stores selling all different designs—from the most staid black bumbershoot to the most colorful floral print. *Factory Store, 1106 W. Broadway. ☎ 604/669-9444. www.theumbrellashop.com. Second location on Granville Island, in front of Kids Market (☎ 604/697-0919). AE, MC, V. Bus: 9, 17. Map p 66.*

Cigars & Tobacco

★ **Cigar Connoisseurs** GASTOWN You're in Canada. Cuban cigars are legal here—hundreds of different kinds. Go to town. This shop caters to the cruise ship crowd but is atmospheric nonetheless. *346 Water St. ☎ 604/682-4427. www.cubanbest.com. AE, DC, MC, V. Bus: 50. SkyTrain: Waterfront Station. Map p 66.*

★ **City Cigar Emporium** WEST SIDE A bit out of the way on False Creek, this is purportedly Canada's largest cigar store and has been visited by aficionado Arnold Schwarzenegger, among others. *888 W. 6th Ave. ☎ 604/879-0208. www.citycigarcompany.com. AE, MC, V. SkyTrain: Olympic Village Station. Map p 66.*

First Nations Art

★★ **Coastal Peoples Fine Arts Gallery** YALETOWN/GASTOWN Museum-quality sculpture, masks, glasswork, jewelry, and more by Northwest Coast First Nations and Inuit artists—both older carvers and younger artists who are pushing traditional forms. *1024 Mainland St. ☎ 604/685-9298. Also at 312 Water St. ☎ 604/684-9222. www.coastalpeoples.com. AE, MC, V. Bus: 6. SkyTrain: Yaletown Station. Map p 66.*

★★ **Douglas Reynolds Gallery** SOUTH GRANVILLE Historic and contemporary Northwest Coast First Nations art, nestled among the contemporary art galleries of Gallery Row (p 31, 23). *2335 Granville St. ☎ 604/731-9292. www.douglasreynoldsgallery.com. AE, MC, V. Bus: 98B, 10. Map p 66.*

★★★ Eagle Spirit Gallery GRANVILLE ISLAND This museum-like gallery specializes in original (and very pricey) Northwest Coast First Nations and Inuit art, including hand-carved masks, argillite stone carvings, bentwood boxes, and paintings. *1803 Maritime Mews. ☎ 604/801-5205. www.eaglespiritgallery.com. AE, MC, V. Bus: 50. Ferries: Aquabus or False Creek (p 10, 4). Map p 8.*

Hills Native Art GASTOWN More touristy than the other galleries listed here, Hill's stocks both quality First Nations artwork and cheaper pieces such as mini–totem poles. *165 Water St. ☎ 604/685-4249. www.hills.ca. AE, DC, MC, V. Bus: 50. SkyTrain: Waterfront Station. Map p 66.*

★★★ Inuit Gallery of Vancouver GASTOWN Another of Vancouver's top galleries for First Nations art, the Inuit Gallery specializes in fine Inuit sculpture from the Arctic regions, plus Inuit prints and original drawings and traditional and contemporary works by Northwest Coast First Nations artists. *206 Cambie St. ☎ 604/688-7323. www.inuit.com. AE, MC, V. Bus: 50. SkyTrain: Waterfront Station. Map p 66.*

★★★ Marion Scott Gallery SOUTH GRANVILLE Founded in 1975, the Marion Scott Gallery is another of Vancouver's best, mounting shows by First Nations artists from Canada's northern territories and publishing exhibit catalogs that are first-rate. *2423 Granville St. ☎ 604/685-1934. www.marionscottgallery.com. AE, MC, V. Bus: 98B, 10. Map p 66.*

★ Spirit Wrestler Gallery GASTOWN Spirit Wrestler is different than the city's other galleries in that it displays museum-quality works from New Zealand Maori artists as well as Inuit and Northwest Coast First Nations art. *47 Water St. ☎ 604/669-8813. www.spiritwrestler.com. AE, MC, V. Bus: 50. SkyTrain: Waterfront Station. Map p 66.*

The Marion Scott Gallery is a first-rate choice for those seeking pieces by First Nations artists.

Gifts, Housewares & Knickknacks

Ainsworth Custom Design GRANVILLE ISLAND Interesting modern knickknacks, handcrafted jewelry, cards, and accessories from local designers, plus (oddly) enormous handcrafted metal furniture. *1243 Cartwright St. ☎ 604/682-8838. MC, V. Bus: 50. Ferries: Aquabus or False Creek (p 10, 4). Map p 66.*

★ Bernstein & Gold YALETOWN This small shop in the warehouse district sells an eccentric assortment of retro bicycles, funky chandeliers and vases, and hand-painted tiles. *1168 Hamilton St. ☎ 604/687-1535. www.bernsteinandgoldinteriors.com. AE, MC, V. SkyTrain: Yaletown Station. Map p 66.*

★ Circle Craft Co-Operative GRANVILLE ISLAND Works by 200 craftspeople from across British Columbia are for sale here,

Orling & Wu features elegant products from England.

everything from blown glass and handmade jewelry to dolls and toys. ***Net Loft Building, 1666 Johnston St. ☎ 604/669-8021. www.circlecraft.net. AE, MC, V. Bus: 50. Ferries: Aquabus or False Creek (p 10, 4). Map p 66.***

★★ **The Cross** YALETOWN This uncommonly large shop for the neighborhood is filled with distressed wood furniture and claw-foot tubs, artisan-made kids wear and stuffed animals, as well as fine linens, soaps, and candles. ***1198 Homer St. ☎ 604/689-2900. www.thecrossdesign.com. AE, MC, V. Bus: 10. SkyTrain: Yaletown Station. Map p 66.***

★ **Ming Wo Cookware** CHINATOWN/KITSILANO Opened as a hardware store in 1917, family-owned Ming Wo turned exclusively to cookware in the mid-1960s and now offers an amazing variety of Asian and Western kitchen supplies for both home and professional cooks. ***23 E. Pender St. ☎ 604/683-7268. www.mingwo.com. Also at 2170 W. 4th Ave., Kitsilano (☎ 604/737-2624). MC, V. Bus 19, 22. Map p 66.***

★ **Orling & Wu** GASTOWN In the historic center of Gastown, this elegant contemporary shop specializes in fabrics and wallpapers from England, elegant ceramic tableware and bed-and-bath accessories. ***28 Water St. ☎ 604/568-6718. www.orlingandwu.com. MC, V. Bus: 50. Map p 66.***

★★ **Vancouver Art Gallery Shop** DOWNTOWN Off the Art Gallery's main lobby, this store stocks works related to the museum's current exhibits as well as paper goods, jewelry, designer giftware, and a great selection of Canadian art books. ***750 Hornby St. ☎ 604/662-4706. www.vanartgallery.bc.ca. AE, MC, V. Bus: 5. Map p 66.***

Jewelry

★★★ **Birk's** DOWNTOWN Sort of the Tiffany's of Canada, Birk's is a beloved institution that's also got some conscience: It has a policy against "conflict diamonds," sourced in war zones to finance the fighting. Its classic, Romanesque Vancouver store dates to 1913. ***698 W. Hastings St. ☎ 604/669-3333. www.birks.com. AE, MC, V. Bus: 10, 6. SkyTrain: Granville or City Centre Station. Map p 66.***

Markets, Malls & Department Stores

★ **The Bay** DOWNTOWN The department store arm of the centuries-old Hudson's Bay Company, the Bay is an old-fashioned, full-service department store occupying a grand city-block-size building dating to 1927, its terra-cotta exterior sporting dozens of Corinthian columns. The store's "Hudson's Bay Traditional Point Blanket" has been on sale since 1779. ***674 Granville St. ☎ 604/681-6211. www.thebay.com. AE, MC, V. Bus: 50. SkyTrain: Granville or City Centre Station. Map p 66.***

★★★ **Granville Island Public Market** GRANVILLE ISLAND ***See p 33, 1.*** ***Map p 66.***

★★ **Kids Market** GRANVILLE ISLAND Like a little mall for kids, this market is home to about 25 different shops selling toys, crafts, kids' books, and other stuff, plus play areas, a train caboose, a pond, a next-door water park, and such services as a kids' hairdresser. *1496 Cartwright St. ☎ 604/689-8447. www.kidsmarket.ca. Shops accept major credit cards. Bus: 50. Ferries: Aquabus or False Creek (p 10, 4). Map p 66.*

★ **Metropolis at Metrotown** BURNABY Located about 20 minutes outside of downtown in the suburb of Burnaby, this is the province's largest mall, with more than 450 stores, plus a state-of-the-art 10-screen movie theater. If you're determined to spend your vacation shopping indoors, this is the place to do it. *4720 Kingsway. ☎ 604/438-4715. www.metropolisatmetrotown.com. Shops accept major credit cards. SkyTrain: Metrotown Station. Map p 66.*

★ **Pacific Centre Mall** DOWNTOWN This huge, largely underground downtown complex contains more than 100 stores, including H&M, Holt Renfrew, Club Monaco, Crabtree & Evelyn, and Coach. *700 W. Georgia St. www.pacificcentre.ca. Shops accept major credit cards. Bus: 50. SkyTrain: City Centre Station. Map p 66.*

Music (Recorded)

★ **Audiopile** EAST VANCOUVER New and used CDs, LPs, and music memorabilia, with a helpful, knowledgeable staff. *2016 Commercial Dr. ☎ 604/253-7453. www.audiopile.com. AE, MC, V. Bus: 99B, 10, 16. SkyTrain: Commercial-Broadway Station. Map p 66.*

Highlife Records & Music EAST VANCOUVER This little place stocks world music, jazz, and select "other" styles, plus a small selection of instruments and accessories (guitar strings, picks, and more). *1317 Commercial Dr. ☎ 604/251-6964. www.highlifeworld.com. MC, V. Bus: 99B, 10, 16. Map p 66.*

★ **HMV** DOWNTOWN The big commercial record store in town, with all the hits, the back catalog, and lots of DVDs. *788 Burrard St. ☎ 604/669-2289. www.hmv.ca. AE, MC, V. Bus: 5, 6. SkyTrain: City Centre Station. Map p 66.*

★ **Red Cat Records** EAST VANCOUVER One of those great little independent shops loved by music fans, Red Cat stocks an eclectic selection of current releases on CD

Board in Vancouver

Skateboarders and snowboarders should head to the corner of W. 4th and Burrard streets on the West Side, which has been taken over completely by shops selling boards, clothing, and accessories. Major stores here include **Comor** (1980 Burrard St.; ☎ 604/736-7547; www.comorsports.com), **Pacific Boarder** (1793 W. 4th Ave.; ☎ 604/734-7245; www.pacificboarder.com), **Showcase** (1766 W. 4th Ave.; ☎ 604/731-6449; www.showcasesnowboards.com), and the **Boardroom** (1745 W. 4th Ave.; ☎ 604/734-7669; www.boardroomshop.com).

You can still get vinyl at Zulu Records, one of the city's best music stores.

and vinyl, plus a store full of new and used records. *4332 Main St. ☎ 604/708-9422. www.redcat.ca. AE, MC, V. Bus: 3. Map p 66.*

★ **Zulu Records** KITSILANO Always on the "city's best" lists, Zulu stocks CDs and LPs with a pop/rock focus and a drizzling of R&B, electronica, jazz, and others for good measure. *1972 W. 4th Ave. ☎ 604/738-3232. www.zulurecords.com. AE, MC, V. Bus: 4, 7, 44. Map p 66.*

Outdoor & Sporting Gear

★ **Atmosphere** KITSILANO This outlet of the national chain store offers a good selection of quality outdoor and athletic gear in a convenient downtown location. *777 Dunsmuir St., in the Pacific Centre Mall. ☎ 604/687-7668. www.atmosphere.ca. AE, MC, V. Bus: 50. Map p 66.*

★★★ **Mountain Equipment Co-op** WEST SIDE MEC is the largest retail co-operative in Canada, selling its own gear plus hard-core and leisure gear from other top manufacturers. Their store takes up a whole city block, and the area around it has sprouted so many like-minded stores it's become known as "fleece row." MEC enjoys a cult following and is packed most days with campers, climbers, and kayakers. *130 W. Broadway. ☎ 604/872-7858. www.mec.ca. MC, V. Bus: 9, 99. Map p 66.*

Wine

★★★ **Legacy Liquor Store** OLYMPIC VILLAGE The province's largest private liquor store, Legacy has an enormous wine selection from BC and around the world, plus the best variety of craft beers in the city. The staff is knowledgeable and the store holds frequent tastings. *1633 Manitoba St. ☎ 604/331-7900. www.legacyliquorstore.com. AE, MC, V. SkyTrain: Olympic Village. Map p 66.*

★ **Marquis Wine Cellars** DOWNTOWN Located in the heart of Vancouver's gay community, Marquis is a good neighborhood wine shop with a large selection of BC wines. *1034 Davie St. ☎ 604/684-0445. www.marquis-wines.com. AE, MC, V. Bus: 6. Map p 66.* ●

Legacy Liquor Store has the broadest selection in the province.

5 The **Great Outdoors**

West Side Parks & Gardens

Previous page: The Stanley Park Seawall is a popular spot for runners.

Vancouver has more than 200 parks in total, from monsters such as Stanley Park to little city-block parks like Emery Barnes. Among the greenest places in Vancouver is the city's West Side, embracing everything from Queen Elizabeth Park in the east to the University of British Columbia gardens in the west. Serious park- and garden-hounds can hit several of the top spots in 1 day. Stops 1, 2, and 3 are all located within easy walking distance of each other, while stops 4, 5, and 6 are bunched within a short drive or bus ride to the west. START: **Queen Elizabeth Park.**

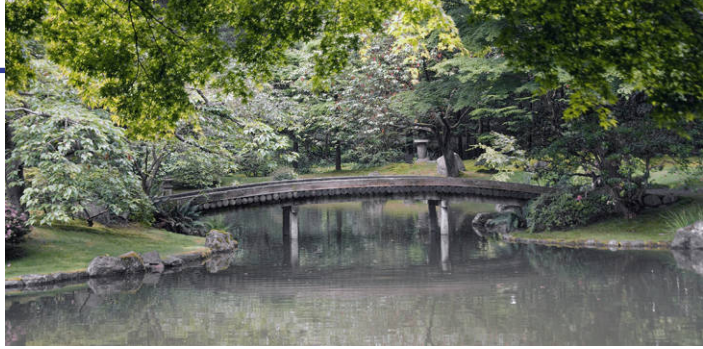
1 ★★ Queen Elizabeth Park. What was once a basalt quarry garden (whose rock was used to create many of the city's roads) has been transformed over decades into a beautiful, flower-filled municipal park. Note that it's not named for Queen Elizabeth II, as many presume, but for her mother, who visited Vancouver with King George VI in 1939 and helped dedicate the site. *1 hr. See p 21, 7. Bus: 15.*

A flower-filled garden blooms in a former quarry at Queen Elizabeth Park.

2 ★ Bloedel Floral Conservatory. Opened in 1969 and perched at the highest point of Queen Elizabeth Park, this huge, humid geodesic dome is made of triangular plexiglass bubbles and is filled with more than 500 varieties of tropical flowers and exotic plants, over 100 birds, and swimming koi. Behind the conservatory, a large plaza is highlighted by a beautiful dancing fountain. The dome makes a great reprieve during rainy weather, plus it's dirt cheap. *30–45 min. Main park entrance at 33rd Ave. & Cambie St. ☎ 604/257-8584. www.vancouver.ca/parks/parks/bloedel. Admission C$5 adults, C$3.48 seniors and teens 13–18, C$2.50 kids 3–12, free 2 and under. Daily May–Sept 9am–8pm (10am–9pm Sat–Sun); Oct–Apr 10am–5pm. Bus: 15, 33.*

The plexiglass dome of the Bloedel Floral Conservatory overlooks a beautiful fountain.

3 ★★★ VanDusen Botanical Gardens. Created between 1971 and 1975 on part of the old Shaughnessy Golf Course grounds, this gorgeous botanical garden is home to more than 255,000 plants, including a first-rate collection of rhododendrons. *1 hr. See p 22, 9. Bus: 15.*



For a small sampling of Japanese tranquility, relax in the haven of greenery that is the Nitobe Memorial Garden.

Best Things in Life Are Free

You'll see pamphlets about the **Capilano Suspension Bridge** (www.capbridge.com)—a wobbly 135m (443-ft.) wooden-plank span suspended by steel cables high above the Capilano River in North Vancouver—all over town. It's great but pricey at C$30 adults. Instead, take a taxi to the free and nearly as impressive Lynn Canyon Suspension Bridge in North Vancouver (3663 Park Rd. in North Vancouver; ☎ 604/990-3755; www.dnv.org). Apart from the 50m (164-ft.) footbridge, there's a network of trails that wind through temperate rainforest, into the canyon, and alongside breathtaking river pools.

4 ★★ UBC Botanical Garden. Located along the southern coast of the University of British Columbia campus, this 43-hectare (106-acre) expanse includes several distinct gardens (alpine, Asian, BC native, food, medicinal, and winter gardens) containing some 8,000 different plant types. Inside the garden, you can also check out the Greenheart Canopy Walkway, a 308m (1,000-ft.) network of bridges and platforms suspended 18m (57 ft.) above the forest floor. *1–2 hr. 6804 SW Marine Dr. (near 16th Ave.). ☎ 604/822-3928. www.botanicalgarden.ubc.ca. Open Mon–Fri 9am–5pm; Sat–Sun 9:30am–5pm. Adults C$8, seniors and teens C$6, kids 6–12 C$4. For canopy walk, add*

Ascending Grouse Mountain

It has a major tourist vibe, but Grouse Mountain (www.grousemountain.com) might be worth your time. The highest point in Vancouver, it offers ski trails in winter and ziplines, hiking trails, wildlife shows, and other activities in summer. You can also ascend a 102m (335-ft.) wind turbine for one of the best views in the city. An aerial tram takes you to the mountain's 1,110m (3,642-ft.) summit, or you can do as intrepid locals do and hike or run the Grouse Grind, a rugged trail that offers an elevation gain of 853m (2,800 ft.) over just 3km (1.75 miles). There's a pub at the top so you can reward yourself with a rather pricey beer.

The Naked Truth about Wreck Beach

Yes, it's true. Vancouver is home to Canada's largest legal nude beach. Located right next door to the University of British Columbia in Pacific Spirit Regional Park, Wreck Beach is accessed by some 400-plus wooden steps that descend through thick temperate rainforest. Welcoming all comers, the beach draws an eclectic mix of both clothed and unclothed bathers. The real allure is the natural scenery: sand cliffs, towering forests, broad beaches, calm, swimmable waters, and even the occasional bald eagle. Busy and with a pronounced bohemian vibe during the summer, Wreck is tranquil and nearly empty the rest of the year. Access is via the Trail 6 stairs, near the intersection of University Boulevard and NW Marine Drive on the university campus.

Prefer a different beach scene? The nearby sands of Spanish Banks are nearly as lovely and the people are fully clothed. Stretching for several kilometers, Spanish Banks has grassy picnic areas, big beaches with lifeguards and—when the tide is out—truly impressive tidal flats that extend far into English Bay. Located on NW Marine Drive west of Tolmie Street, Spanish Banks can be reached by bus 4 or 44, and there is also ample public parking.

an extra C$12 adults, C$9 seniors and teens, C$6 kids 6–12. Bus: 4, 17 to the UBC transit center, then walk or take C20 shuttle.

5 ★★★ Nitobe Memorial Garden. So authentic is this traditional Japanese garden that the future Emperor of Japan remarked, "I am in Japan," when he walked through. *1 hr. See p 17, 8.*

If you still have time at the end of the day, you might spend some time exploring:

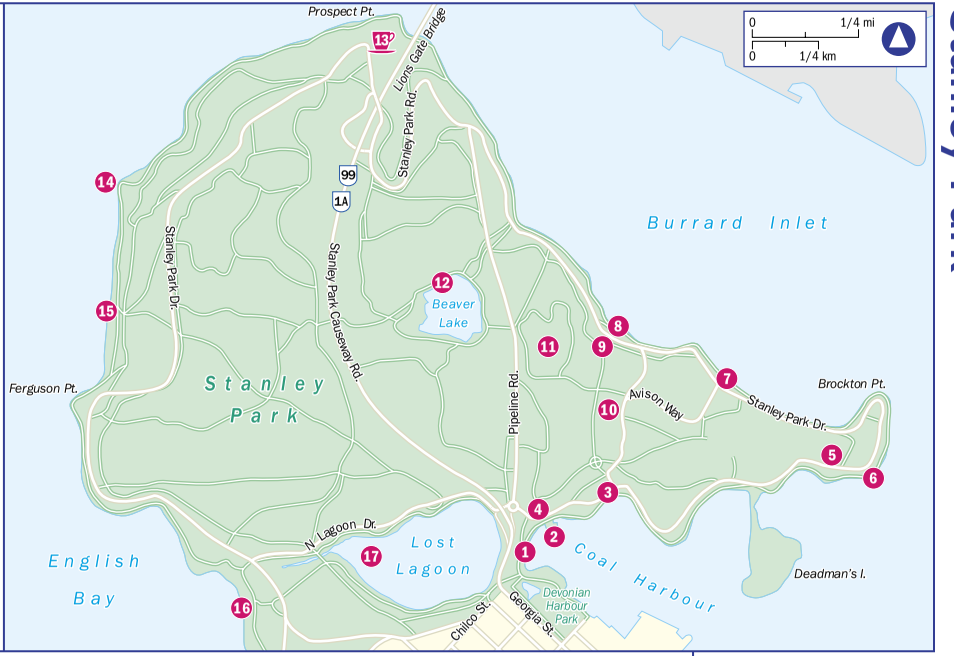
6 ★★ Pacific Spirit Regional Park. Whereas the five parks and gardens above represent man's attempt to mold nature to his own taste, Pacific Spirit is an altogether wilder beast. Separating the University of British Columbia from the rest of the West Side, it's Vancouver's largest park at 763 hectares (1,885 acres), offering an expanse of rainforest, marsh, and beaches joined by more than 73km (45 miles) of hiking, biking, and horseback trails. *1–8 hr. Visitor Centre located on 16th Ave. btw. Blanca St. and Westbrook Mall. 604/224-5739. www.metrovancouver.org/services/parks_lscr/regionalparks/Pages/PacificSpirit.aspx.*

Wreck Beach draws an eclectic mix of clothed and unclothed bathers.

No litter bins at the beach.
Please carry all litter back to these bins.
Clothing optional at beach ahead
No Unauthorized Vending
For more information, call the West Area Office.
GVRD Parks

Stanley Park

1. Stanley Park Seawall
2. Vancouver Rowing Club
3. Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides
4. Hop-On, Hop-Off Shuttle Bus
5. Brockton Point Totem Poles
6. The 9 O'Clock Gun
7. *Girl in a Wetsuit*
8. Variety Kids Water Park
9. Lumbermen's Arch
10. Vancouver Aquarium
11. Miniature Train
12. Beaver Lake
13. Prospect Point Lookout
14. Siwash Rock
15. Third Beach
16. Second Beach
17. Lost Lagoon



Vancouver would not be Vancouver without Stanley Park—without the dense wall of trees that caps the West End with living nature; without the trails, lawns, beaches, gardens, and forests that let Vancouverites escape so quickly from their urban lives. Extending over 404 hectares (1,000 acres), the park is larger than New York's Central Park and offers not only nature but also some of the city's best views, family attractions, and historic sites.

START: Enter Stanley Park via W. Georgia Street, at the western end of Coal Harbour. Bus 19 from the city center takes you to the park, where a number of other transportation options are available.

Travel Tip

Stanley Park information is available by calling ☎ 604/257-8531, or surfing the web to www.vancouver.ca/parks/parks/stanley.

1 ★★★ Stanley Park Seawall. One of the great outdoor experiences of Vancouver, the 10.5km (6.5-mile) Seawall rings the entirety of Stanley Park, with separate lanes for walkers/runners and bicyclists. You'll get fantastic views of the sea, the city skyline, the North Shore Mountains, and the distant peaks of Vancouver Island, plus easy access to most of the park's major sights, including most on this tour. 🕘 ***At least 2 hr., depending how many of the park's attractions you check out. Main entrances are via W. Georgia St. & Beach Ave. Bike rentals are available from C$10/hr. (C$30 half-day) at Spokes, 1798 W. Georgia St. at Denman. ☎ 604/688-5141. www.spokesbicyclerentals.com. Bus: 19.***

2 Vancouver Rowing Club. This rustic-style heritage building is nestled on the edge of Coal Harbour and surrounded by piers and boats. The club was chartered in April 1899 and is the oldest social club in Vancouver. The clubhouse itself dates to September 1911. 🕘 ***2 min. 450 Stanley Park Dr. ☎ 604/687-3414. www.vancouverrowingclub.ca.***

3 ★ kids Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides. A nicely old-fashioned way to see the park, these hour-long tours in tram cars pulled by horses meander along the park's eastern edge, stopping at the Brockton Point Totem poles (5) and

The Vancouver Rowing Club, the city's oldest social club, occupies an enviable position right on the edge of Coal Harbour.

The Brockton Point Totem Poles are actually reproductions of the First Nations originals.

several other historic and natural sights. 🕘 ***1 hr. Ticket kiosk is located approx. 90m (300 ft.) beyond the rowing club, just next to an information booth. ☎ 604/681-5115. www.stanleyparktours.com. Adults C$30. Seniors and students C$28, kids 3–12 C$16. Departures every 20–30 min., 9:40am–4pm (Mar & Oct); 9:40am–5pm (Apr–June & Sept); 9:30am–5:30pm (July–Aug).***

4 Hop-On, Hop-Off Shuttle Bus. In summer, the Vancouver Trolley Company offers a shuttle service that stops at 15 popular locations all around the park. The shuttle runs every 15 minutes; shuttle stops are clearly marked, and you can hop on or off at your leisure. 🕘 ***45 min. for the full circuit, longer if you get off. The nearest stops to the park entrance are near Lost Lagoon and the Rowing Club. ☎ 604/801-5515. www.vancouvertrolley.com/tour/stanley-park-shuttle. Adults C$10, kids C$5. Available 11am–6:30pm, mid-June to late Sept.***

5 ★★ Brockton Point Totem Poles. Between 1920 and 1936, the city purchased a number of totem poles from First Nations peoples in Alert Bay, the Queen Charlotte Islands, and Rivers Inlet. Some of these poles dated to the 1880s, which explains why the eight you see here today are reproductions—totem poles just don't last very long out in the elements. 🕘 ***15 min. Located near Brockton Point, the park's easternmost spit.***

6 The 9 O'Clock Gun. Cast in England in 1816, this 12-pounder muzzle-loaded naval cannon was brought to Canada 40 years later and installed in Stanley Park around 1894. It's acted as a signal cannon from that day onward, first to alert fishermen and later as a daily 9pm signal by which Vancouverites on ship and shore could set their clocks. 🕘 ***2 min. Located along the seawall just beyond the totem poles, in a roofed glass booth at waterside.***

7 *Girl in a Wetsuit.* This iconic Vancouver sculpture—of a young woman in a scuba suit, sitting atop a rock in the water—was inspired by Copenhagen's famous *Little Mermaid* sculpture, and created in 1972 by sculptor Elek Imredy. 🕘 ***2 min. Located in the water, about .5km (⅓ mile) past Brockton Point.***

8 kids Variety Kids Water Park. There's no swimming pool in sight, but children will have no

The basalt Siwash Rock is the only one of its kind in Vancouver.

Third Beach is one of two in Stanley Park suitable for swimming.

problems getting wet and cooling off at Vancouver's largest water spray facility. *See p 38,* 4.

9 Lumbermen's Arch. Erected in 1952 to honor British Columbia's lumber industry, this simple arrangement of one enormous log supported at an angle by two stubbier ones frames a walking path that leads to the next three attractions. *2 min. Located just beyond the 3km point on Stanley Park Dr., across from the water park.*

10 ★★★ kids Vancouver Aquarium. Canada's first public aquarium (opened in 1956) is one of North America's largest and best, with displays that focus on life in British Columbia's waters. *See p 37,* 1.

11 ★ kids Miniature Train. *See p 37,* 2.

12 Beaver Lake. Most visitors to Stanley Park stick to the seawall and never venture inland to explore the lush Pacific rainforests. What a shame! A network of lovely trails converge around Beaver Lake, a lily-pad-covered pond that does indeed have resident beavers, as well as a diversity of ducks, geese, and other waterfowl. *1 hr. Pick up the trail to Beaver Lake near the Miniature Train station. Then follow the Ravine Trail to return to the seawall.*

Stop for some refreshment at the **13 Prospect Point Lookout,** perched on a cliff top at the highest point in the park, near the foot of the Lions Gate Bridge. There's a cafe serving a large menu of comfort food, a bar and grill, ice cream, and great views of the bridge, built in 1937 by the Guinness family (of Irish beer fame), who owned much of the land on the other side. ***Note:*** This is not easily accessible from the seawall and is best reached by car or taxi. *2099 Beach Ave. ☎ 604/669-2737. www.prospectpoint.ca. $.*

14 Siwash Rock. Formed some 32 million years ago when volcanic activity pushed molten magma to the surface, this basalt sea stack (roughly 18m/60 ft. in height) is the only one of its kind in the Vancouver area. *2 min. Located 1 km (½ mile) SW of Prospect Point.*

15 kids Third Beach. Though Stanley Park has numerous natural beaches, only two are suitable for swimming. Third Beach is the quieter and more northerly one, surrounded by forest and offering a snack stand, washrooms, and lifeguards from late May to early Sept. *Depends on your sun tolerance. Located at Ferguson Point. Parking C$3/hr.*

Lighthouse Park

You'll need to take an hour-long ride on bus 250 (which stops along W. Georgia St. on its way north to Horseshoe Bay) or have a car to reach this spot in West Vancouver, but it's worth it. Secluded among quiet residential streets, quiet, rustic Lighthouse Park (☎ **604/925-7270**) contains 10km (6.2 miles) of groomed hiking trails that wind among some of the largest and oldest trees on the Lower Mainland. One trail leads to the Point Atkinson Lighthouse, which has warned ships away from the point since 1912. (An older light, dating to 1881, was responsible for the forests here never being clear-cut: The 65 hectares/160 acres of Douglas fir and other growth were the requisite dark background that would make the light visible.) From the Lighthouse Viewpoint, you can see across the Georgia Strait to Vancouver Island. The park is located at the end of Beacon Lane off Marine Drive in West Vancouver, about 8km (5 miles) west of the Lions Gate Bridge.

16 kids **Second Beach.** The busier of the park's two beaches, Second Beach is extremely family friendly, with a playground, a large grassy area, a snack stand, washrooms, lifeguards (late May to early Sept), and a large, heated outdoor pool with one section for lap swimmers and another for folks who just want to cool off. (FYI: "First Beach" is located down around Denman St., where it's more commonly known as English Bay Beach.) 🕘 ***15 min. to 5 hr., depending on your sun tolerance. Located at North Lagoon Dr. Parking C$3/hr. Pool fees C$5.31 adults, C$3.71seniors and teens, C$2.63 kids 3–12.***

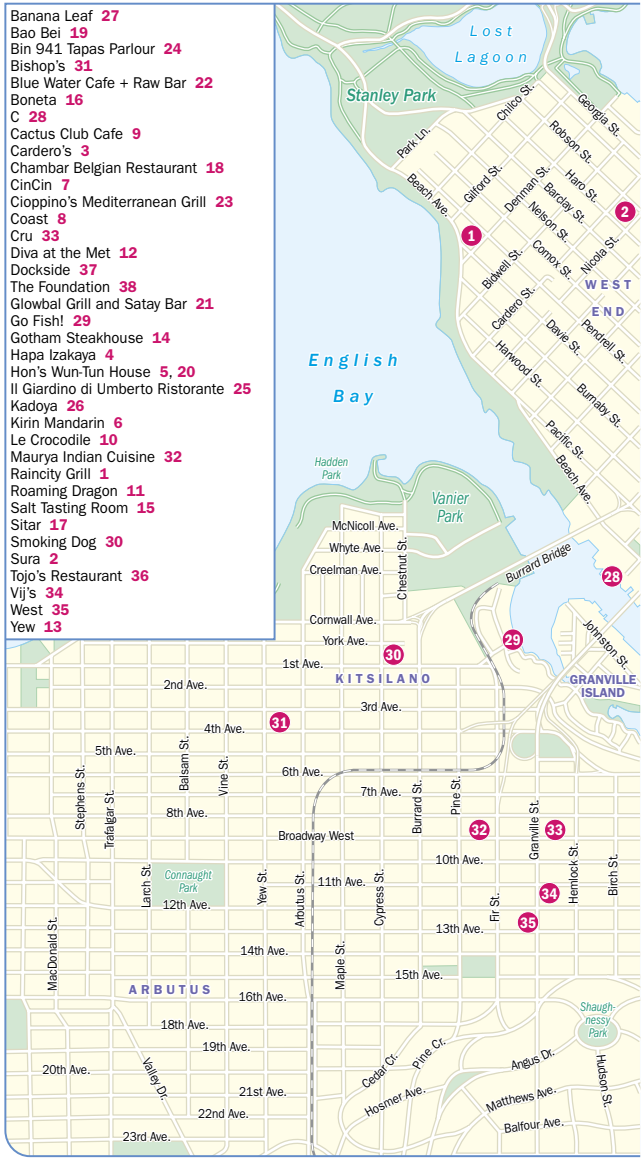
17 **Lost Lagoon.** Once a part of Coal Harbour, this lagoon was marooned in 1916, when a new highway through Stanley Park cut it off from the ocean. Today, trails circle its tranquil waters, which are filled with mallard ducks, majestic Great Blue Herons, and non-native swans fed daily by park staff. 🕘 ***1 hr. The lagoon can be accessed from W. Georgia St. or by walking inland from Second Beach.*** ●

Lighthouse Park has spectacular views across the Georgia Strait.

6 The Best Dining

Vancouver Dining

Banana Leaf **27**
Bao Bei **19**
Bin 941 Tapas Parlour **24**
Bishop's **31**
Blue Water Cafe + Raw Bar **22**
Boneta **16**
C **28**
Cactus Club Cafe **9**
Cardero's **3**
Chambar Belgian Restaurant **18**
CinCin **7**
Cioppino's Mediterranean Grill **23**
Coast **8**
Cru **33**
Diva at the Met **12**
Dockside **37**
The Foundation **38**
Glowbal Grill and Satay Bar **21**
Go Fish! **29**
Gotham Steakhouse **14**
Hapa Izakaya **4**
Hon's Wun-Tun House **5, 20**
Il Giardino di Umberto Ristorante **25**
Kadoya **26**
Kirin Mandarin **6**
Le Crocodile **10**
Maurya Indian Cuisine **32**
Raincity Grill **1**
Roaming Dragon **11**
Salt Tasting Room **15**
Sitar **17**
Smoking Dog **30**
Sura **2**
Tojo's Restaurant **36**
Vij's **34**
West **35**
Yew **13**



Previous page: The delicate seafood dishes at Blue Water Cafe & Raw Bar are perhaps the best of their type in the city.

0
1/2 mi
0
1/2 km
Coal Harbour
Burrard Inlet
Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre
Waterfront
Waterfront Sta.
Waterfront Rd.
Portside Park
Alexander St.
Powell St.
Cordova St.
Hastings St.
Pender St.
GASTOWN
CHINATOWN
Nelson Park
Thurlow St.
Bute St.
Jervis St.
Broughton St.
Alberni St.
Melville St.
Pender St.
Burrard
Granville
Hastings St.
Cordova St.
Richards St.
Abbott St.
Carrall St.
Columbia St.
Gore Ave.
Howe St.
Robson St.
Georgia St.
Dunsmuir St.
Granville St.
Seymour St.
Hornby St.
Burrard St.
Homer St.
Hamilton St.
Cambie St.
Stadium
Livingstone Park
Georgia St.
Prior St.
Heinricks St.
Davie St.
Drake St.
Nelson St.
Smithe St.
Beatty St.
YALE-TOWN
B.C. Place Stadium
Creekside Park
Pacific Central Sta.
Main St.
Pacific Blvd.
David Lam Park
Cambie Bridge
Industrial Ave.
False Creek
1st Ave.
2nd Ave.
3rd Ave.
4th Ave.
5th Ave.
6th Ave.
7th Ave.
8th Ave.
Broadway West
10th Ave.
11th Ave.
12th Ave.
13th Ave.
14th Ave.
15th Ave.
16th Ave.
17th Ave.
18th Ave.
19th Ave.
20th Ave.
21st Ave.
22nd Ave.
Main St.
Quebec St.
Scotia St.
Brunswick St.
Guelph Park
Kingsway
St. George St.
Prince Edward St.
Sophia St.
Yukon St.
Manitoba St.
Ontario St.
Alberta St.
Ash St.
Cambie St.
Heather St.
Willow St.
Tupper St.
Columbia St.
Main St.
Oak St.
Spruce St.
Alder St.
Laurel St.
Wolfe Ave.
Osler St.
FAIRVIEW
MOUNT PLEASANT
Charleson Park
Charleson St.
Douglas Park
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
36
37
38

Dining Best Bets

Best **BC Regional Cuisine**
★★★ West $$$$ *2881 Granville St. (p 98)*

Best **Seafood**
★★★ Blue Water Cafe $$$ *1095 Hamilton St. (p 93)*

Best **Outdoor Seafood**
★ Go Fish! $ *1505 West 1st Ave. (p 95)*

Best **Romantic Dining**
★★★ Raincity Grill $$ *1193 Denman St. (p 97)*

Best **Italian**
★★★ Cioppino's Mediterranean Grill $$$ *1133 Hamilton St. (p 94)*

Best **French**
★★★ Le Crocodile $$$ *100–909 Burrard St. (p 97)*

Best **Informal Arty Restaurant**
★★ Boneta $$ *12 Water St. (p 93)*

Best **Small-Plate Restaurant**
★ Bin 941 $ *941 Davie St. (p 93)*

Best **Wine, Meat & Cheese**
★★ Salt Tasting Room $ *45 Blood Alley (p 97)*

Best **Japanese**
★★★ Tojo's Restaurant $$$ *1133 W. Broadway (p 98)*

Best **Chinese**
★★ Bao Bei $$ *163 Keefer St. (p 93)*

Best **Indian**
★★★ Vij's $$ *1480 W. 11th Ave. (p 98)*

Best **Steakhouse**
★★★ Gotham Steakhouse $$$ *615 Seymour St. (p 96)*

Best **Casual Chain**
★ Cactus Club Cafe $$ *588 Burrard St. (p 94)*

Best **View**
★★ Dockside $$$ *1253 Johnston St. (p 95)*

Best **Service**
★★★ Bishop's $$$ *2183 W. 4th Ave. (p 93)*

Best **Trendy Korean**
★★ Sura $$ *1518 Robson St. (p 98)*

Best **Street Food**
★ Roaming Dragon $ *Corner of Burrard & Robson sts. (p 97)*

Roaming Dragon is a standout among Vancouver's many excellent street food choices.

Vancouver Restaurants A to Z

★ **Banana Leaf** WEST END *MALAYSIAN* Blending Chinese, Thai, and Malaysian influences, this restaurant (one of four branches in the city) is a fantastic value. Ingredients are fresh, the ambience is sleek and modern, and the menu is packed with flavorful noodle, rice, seafood, and curry dishes. ***1096 Denman St. ☎ 604/731-6333. Entrees C$11–C$20. AE, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Bus: 6, C23. Map p 90.***

★★ **Bao Bei** CHINATOWN *CHINESE* The antithesis of the greasy, MSG-slinging Chinese joint, this cute, contemporary restaurant (which looks like a French bistro inside) serves small plates of Asian-inspired dishes like steamed buns with pork belly, and duck-and-mushroom wontons. The emphasis is on fresh, seasonal ingredients. ***163 Keefer St. ☎ 604/688-0876. www.bao-bei.ca. Small sharing plates C$9–C$15. AE, MC, V. Dinner Mon–Sat. Bus: C21, C23, 50. Map p 90.***

★ **Bin 941 Tapas Parlour** DOWNTOWN *TAPAS/ECLECTIC* It's tiny, crowded, full of attitude, and doesn't take reservations, but the seafood, Moroccan, and other small plates here are amazing. I'd go again just for the Navajo fry bread. ***941 Davie St. ☎ 604/683-1246. www.bin941.com. All items C$5–C$17. MC, V. Dinner daily. Bus: C23, 6. Map p 90.***

★★★ **Bishop's** KITSILANO *BC REGIONAL* One of Vancouver's best and classiest restaurants since 1985, focusing on local organic ingredients in a creative seasonal menu. Atmosphere is elegant and intimate, and service is friendly and attentive. ***2183 W. 4th Ave. ☎ 604/738-2025. www.bishopsonline.com. Entrees C$36–C$41. AE, DC, MC, V. Dinner daily. Bus: 4, 7. Map p 90.***

C is one of the most popular places in the city for seafood.

★★★ **Blue Water Cafe & Raw Bar** YALETOWN *SEAFOOD* Vancouver's A-1 pick for seafood from wild and sustainable fisheries. The regular dishes are prepared with a delicate touch, and the sushi and sashimi are sublime. ***1095 Hamilton St. ☎ 604/688-8078. www.bluewatercafe.net. Entrees C$30–C$44. AE, DC, MC, V. Dinner daily. Bus: 6, C21, C23. SkyTrain: Yaletown Station. Map p 90.***

★★ **Boneta** GASTOWN *ECLECTIC* A little gem, arty Boneta mixes a creative, seasonal West Coast menu; great service and cocktails; and a cool/casual atmosphere. Choose from small, tapas-style plates for sharing or larger entrees. It's one of the best informal bets in town. ***12 Water St. ☎ 604/684-1844. www.boneta.ca. All items C$6–C$26. AE, MC, V. Dinner daily. Bus: 50, 4, 7. Map p 90.***

★★★ **C** FALSE CREEK NORTH *SEAFOOD* A longtime seafood favorite, featuring local fish and recipes from around the world. An outdoor patio on False Creek makes for wonderful sunset meals. ***1600 Howe St.***

☎ 604/681-1164. www.crestaurant.com. Entrees C$35–C$55. AE, DC, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Bus: C21, C23, 98b, 10. Map p 90.

★ **Cactus Club Cafe** DOWNTOWN *ECLECTIC/CASUAL* Fashion-model waitstaff and a chic decor mix with an affordable West Coast menu, bar TVs for sporting events, and outdoor seating under funky giant umbrellas at this Vancouver-based chain. *588 Burrard St. ☎ 604/682-0933. www.cactusclubcafe.com. Entrees C$14–C$37. AE, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Bus: 2, 22, 44. SkyTrain: Burrard Station. Map p 90.*

★★ **Cardero's** COAL HARBOUR *BC REGIONAL* Perched over Coal Harbour, Cardero's has knockout views and a rustic, ship-like design. The menu is typical West Coast, with an emphasis on seafood plus some wok dishes, pastas, and steaks, while the patio offers gorgeous vistas. *1583 Coal Harbour Quay. ☎ 604/669-7666. www.vancouverdine.com/carderos. Entrees C$12–C$25. AE, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Bus: 19. Map p 90.*

★★★ **Chambar Belgian Restaurant** DOWNTOWN *BELGIAN* A stylish (if loud) spot offering legendary *moule frites* (mussels) along with other seafood, meats, Moroccan influences, lots of paprika, and Belgian beers. *562 Beatty St. ☎ 604/879-7119. www.chambar.com. Entrees C$29–C$31. AE, MC, V. Dinner daily. Bus: 15. SkyTrain: Stadium Station. Map p 90.*

Belgian dishes with a Middle Eastern twist is what you'll get at Chambar Belgian.

★★★ **CinCin** WEST END *ITALIAN* An Italian villa with an outdoor terrace, serving both classic and modern dishes with a seasonal focus. The open kitchen is built around a huge wood-fired oven. *1154 Robson St. ☎ 604/688-7338. www.cincin.net. Entrees C$23–C$47. AE, DC, MC, V. Dinner daily. Bus: 5. Map p 90.*

★★★ **Cioppino's Mediterranean Grill** YALETOWN *ITALIAN/MEDITERRANEAN* The seasonal menu at the city's best formal Italian restaurant is prepared with a light touch. The wine list is enormous, and the vibe is warm and low-lit. *1133 Hamilton St. ☎ 604/688-7466. www.cioppinosyaletown.com. Entrees C$25–C$48. AE, DC, MC, V. Dinner Mon–Sat. Bus: 6, C21, C23. SkyTrain: Yaletown Station. Map p 90.*

★★ **Coast** DOWNTOWN *SEAFOOD* A big, high-energy restaurant spread over two floors, this hot spot favored by downtown's young professionals features local and international seafood and seasonal produce. The signature chilled platter is three tiers of lobster, prawns, crab legs, oysters, and sashimi. *1054 Alberni St. ☎ 604/685-5010. www.coastrestaurant.ca. Entrees C$18–C$57. AE, DC, MC, V. Lunch Mon-Fri; dinner daily. Bus: 2, 22, 32. SkyTrain: Burrard Station. Map p 90.*

★★ **Cru** WEST SIDE *BC REGIONAL* Small, minimalist, and intimate, Cru serves West Coast small-plates and a wine list color-coded for food pairings. The staff knows their wines, and the prices are low-ish.

Dine on award-winning Italian cuisine in elegant surroundings at CinCin.

1459 W. Broadway. ☎ 604/677-4111. www.cru.ca. Small plates C$9–C$18; 3-course prix fixe C$39. AE, MC, V. Lunch Mon–Fri; dinner daily. Bus: 98B, 10. Map p 90.

★★ **Diva at the Met** DOWNTOWN *BC REGIONAL* A stylish, multitiered room serving regional and world cuisine to seriously delicious effect. The wine list wins raves, as does the chef's table fronting the open-view kitchen. *In the Metropolitan Hotel, 645 Howe St. ☎ 604/602-7788. www.divamet.com. Entrees C$19–C$36. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Breakfast, lunch & dinner daily. Bus: 4, 7. SkyTrain: Granville Station. Map p 90.*

★★ **Dockside** GRANVILLE ISLAND *BC REGIONAL* Right on False Creek, this restaurant in the elegant Granville Island Hotel (p 126) emphasizes sustainable seafood, as well as pastas and steaks, and also brews its own very good beers. Its waterside patio is among the best in the city. *1253 Johnston St. ☎ 604/685-7070. www.docksiderestaurant.com. Entrees C$17–C$34. AE, DC, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Bus: 50. Map p 90.*

★★ **The Foundation** EAST VANCOUVER *VEGAN* This counterculture institution, with revolutionary sayings on the walls, serves incredibly fresh and flavorful vegan cuisine. The peanut burger will convert even hard-core carnivores. *2301 Main St. ☎ 604/708-0881. All items C$8–C$15. AE, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Bus: 3. Map p 90.*

★ **Glowbal Grill and Satay Bar** YALETOWN *ECLECTIC* Satay (plus fusion meat and seafood) is the thing at this trendy Yaletown spot, which has a sleek modern interior, open kitchen, and buzz-heavy atmosphere. *1079 Mainland St. ☎ 604/602-0835. www.glowbalgrill.com. Entrees C$18–C$34. AE, DC, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily; brunch Sat–Sun. Bus: 6. SkyTrain: Yaletown Station. Map p 90.*

★ **Go Fish!** WEST SIDE *SEAFOOD* A tin shack on the water, Go Fish! has limited hours and you'll have to sit outside (even in winter). But that's half the charm. The other half? The fresh, delicious seafood. *1505 W. 1st Ave. (at False Creek Fisherman's Wharf). ☎ 604/730-5040. All items C$8–C$14. Cash only. Lunch Tues–Sun. Bus: 50. Map p 90.*

★★★ **Gotham Steakhouse** DOWNTOWN *STEAK* Vancouver's best restaurant for carnivores combines serious steak-and-cocktails decor with 28-day dry-aged Canadian Prime beef. In good weather, you can dine on the outdoor patio. ***615 Seymour St. ☎ 604/605-8282. www.gothamsteakhouse.com. Entrees C$29–C$53. AE, DC, MC, V. Dinner daily. Bus: 4, 5, 6. SkyTrain: Granville Station. Map p 90.***

★ **Hapa Izakaya** WEST END *JAPANESE* Everything's loud and hectic, but that's part of the *izakaya* (Japanese pub food) shtick. Expect speedy service, small plates of Japanese appetizers and hot pots, and lots of Sapporo at this location, one of three in the city. ***1479 Robson St. ☎ 604/689-4272. www.hapaizakaya.com. Entrees C$6–C$10. AE, MC, V. Dinner daily. Bus: 5. Map p 90.***

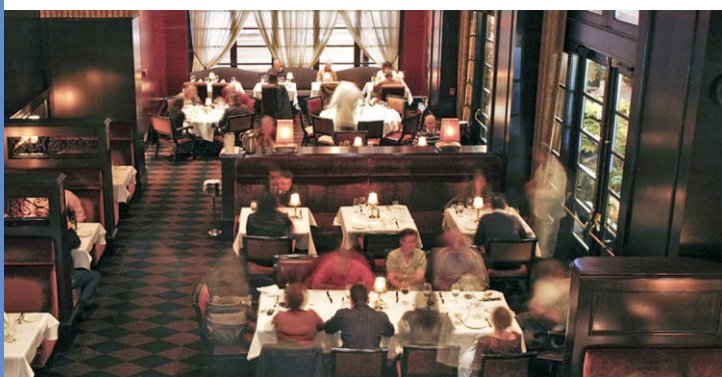
Hon's Wun-Tun House CHINATOWN/WEST END *CHINESE* It's chaotic, loud, and decor-free, but Hon's is an institution for reliably good, solid Hong Kong food served in huge portions from the longest menu you've ever seen. ***Chinatown: 268 Keefer St. ☎ 604/688-0871. West End: 1339 Robson St. ☎ 604/685-0871. www.hons.ca. Everything C$4–C$13. MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Bus: 22 (Chinatown), 5 (Robson). Map p 90.***

★★ **Il Giardino di Umberto Ristorante** FALSE CREEK NORTH *ITALIAN* A lovely classic Italian restaurant, with rustic beams, white tablecloths, a tile floor, and a menu full of classics, game, pastas, and seasonal ingredients. ***1382 Hornby St. ☎ 604/669-2422. www.hotelvilladelia.com/restaurant_ilgiardino.cfm. Entrees C$33–C$40. AE, DC, MC, V. Lunch Mon–Fri; dinner Mon–Sat. Bus: C21, C23. Map p 90.***

★ **Kadoya** WEST END *JAPANESE* Cramped and always busy, Kadoya is a notch above Vancouver's legions of cheap (and generally quite good) sushi joints. Expect fresher-than-average fish, elegant presentation, and creative rolls—at bargain prices. ***1063 Davie St. ☎ 604/608-1115. www.kadoya.ca. Sushi rolls C$2.50–C$10. MC, V. Lunch & dinner Tues–Sun. Bus: 6, C23. Map p 90.***

★★★ **Kirin Mandarin** WEST END *CHINESE* Dine on upscale northern Chinese, accompanied by wonderful service, in an elegant two-level venue. The Peking duck is a favorite at dinner, while fresh dim sum is the thing for lunch. ***1166 Alberni St. ☎ 604/682-8833. www.kirinrestaurants.com. Entrees C$17–C$53. AE, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Bus: 5. Map p 90.***

Gotham Steakhouse boasts a chic dining room and some of the best steaks in town.



The kitchen at Kirin Mandarin puts out perhaps the most elegant Chinese cuisine in Vancouver.

★★★ **Le Crocodile** DOWNTOWN *FRENCH* This elegant, intimate room seems perpetually bathed in a sunny glow. Expect classic French cuisine and style with a dash of West Coast, plus doting service. ***909 Burrard St. ☎ 604/669-4298. www.lecrocodilerestaurant.com. Entrees C$27–C$42. AE, MC, V. Lunch Mon–Fri; dinner Mon–Sat. Bus: 2, 22, 44. Map p 90.***

★★ **Maurya Indian Cuisine** WEST SIDE *INDIAN* Authentic, traditional North Indian cuisine served in a gorgeous, woody, high-ceilinged space with draped floor-to-ceiling windows. The chefs go lighter than usual on the butters and creams, yet retain all the flavor. There's a great weekday lunch buffet, plus streetside patio dining in nice weather. ***1643 W. Broadway. ☎ 604/742-0622. www.mauryaindiancuisine.com. Entrees C$13–C$20; buffet C$14. AE, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Bus: 10, 98B, 99B. Map p 90.***

★★★ **Raincity Grill** WEST END *BC REGIONAL* Raincity and its "100-mile tasting menu" set the bar for Vancouver's fresh local food movement. Expect exceptional organic cuisine, friendly service, and a killer view of the English Bay sunset (from both the interior dining room and the patio). ***1193 Denman St. ☎ 604/685-7337. www.raincitygrill.com. Entrees C$19–C$36. AE, DC, MC, V. Lunch Mon–Fri; brunch Sat–Sun; dinner daily. Bus: C21, C23, 6, 5. Map p 90.***

★ **Roaming Dragon** DOWNTOWN *STREET FOOD* Since 2010, a new wave of street food has hit the city: healthy, varied, and, of course, cheap. This colorful truck, serving steamed buns with pork belly or Korean-style *bulgogi* tacos, is one of the best new offerings. ***Corner of Burrard & Robson sts. www.roamingdragon.com. Entrees C$6. MC, V. Lunch daily. Bus: 2, 5. SkyTrain: Burrard Station. Map p 90.***

★★ **Salt Tasting Room** GASTOWN *CHARCUTERIE/CHEESE* Select three cured meats and/or artisanal cheeses, three perfect condiments, and then top it off with wine. Yum. The day's selections are chalked on a blackboard. One caveat: Elegant inside, Salt is situated along a sketchy alley in a rough part of Gastown. ***45 Blood Alley. ☎ 604/633-1912. www.salttastingroom.com. Tasting plates C$15. AE, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Bus: 50. Map p 90.***

Foodies will rejoice in the award-winning array of artisanal cheeses, cured meats, and wines at Salt Tasting Room.

Tojo's is a longtime Vancouver favorite for top-quality sushi.

★★★ **Sitar** GASTOWN *INDIAN* Easy to miss in Gastown, and not in any way trendy, Sitar nonetheless serves some of the freshest, most flavorful—and reasonably priced—Indian cuisine year after year. ***8 Powell St. ☎ 604/687-0049. www.sitarrestaurant.net. C$16–C$25. AE, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Bus: 50. Map p 90.***

★★★ **Smoking Dog** KITSILANO *FRENCH* This consummate French bistro serves excellent beef bourguignon and *moules frites*. Ingredients are fresh and locally sourced, and the food is complemented by an honest, neighborhood ambience. ***1889 W. 1st Ave. ☎ 604/732-8811. www.thesmokingdog.com. Entrees C$18–C$29. AE, MC. Lunch & dinner daily. Bus: 2, 4, 22. Map p 90.***

★★ **Sura** WEST END *KOREAN* Vancouver has a sizable Korean population, and good Korean food abounds on Robson Street, mainly in hole-in-the-wall form. This is among the more stylish options, with a sleek little dining room and decent *bulgogi* and *bibimbap*. ***1518 Robson St. ☎ 604/687-7872. Entrees C$14–C$30. AE, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Bus: 5. Map p 90.***

★★★ **Tojo's Restaurant** WEST SIDE *JAPANESE* A perennial "best Japanese" winner, Tojo's offers legendary (and very pricey) sushi and sashimi created with fresh, seasonal ingredients, plus *omakase* tasting menus. ***1133 W. Broadway. ☎ 604/872-8050. www.tojos.com. Entrees C$18–C$38, omakase C$80–C$120. AE, DC, MC, V. Dinner Mon–Sat. Bus: 99B, 9. Map p 90.***

★★★ **Vij's** WEST SIDE *INDIAN* Stratospherically inventive Indian cuisine, mixing classic dishes with seasonal local meats, seafood, and produce. No reservations are taken, so arrive very early and expect a line. (Hint: Check out sister restaurant Rangoli next door for Vij's dishes served in an informal, market setting.) ***1480 W. 11th Ave. ☎ 604/736-6664. www.vijsrestaurant.ca. Entrees C$25–C$29. AE, DC, MC, V. Dinner daily. Bus: 98b, 10. Map p 90.***

★★★ **West** WEST SIDE *BC REGIONAL* Perennially named Vancouver's best restaurant, it's stylish yet relaxed, of-the-moment but not trendy, and offers perfect service and contemporary seasonal cuisine. ***2881 Granville St. ☎ 604/738-8938. www.westrestaurant.com. Entrees C$30–C$50. AE, DC, MC, V. Lunch Mon–Sat; dinner daily; brunch Sun. Bus: 98b, 10. Map p 90.***

★★ **Yew** DOWNTOWN *SEAFOOD* Stylish in both menu and decor, Yew has a high ceiling, central sandstone fireplace, and a wine bar with an enormous by-the-glass list. ***In the Four Seasons, 791 W. Georgia St. ☎ 604/692-4939. www.yewrestaurant.com. Entrees C$24–C$38. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Breakfast, lunch & dinner daily. Bus: 4, 7. Map p 90.***

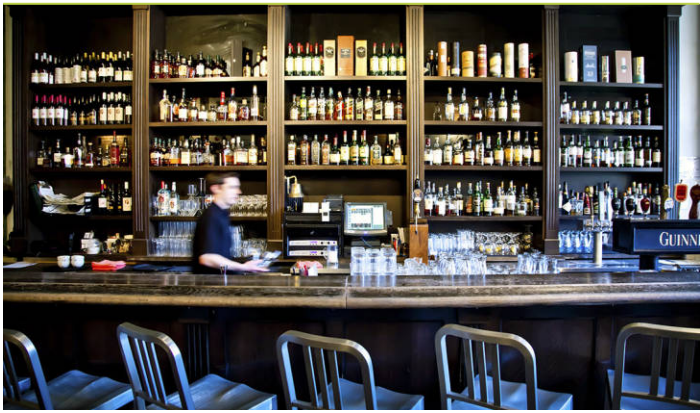
7 The Best Nightlife

Vancouver Nightlife

Previous page: The centrally located Lennox Pub has a comfortable atmosphere and good beer list.

1181 **26**
900 West Lounge **14**
The Alibi Room **7**
Bacchus Restaurant & Piano Lounge **15**
The Backstage Lounge **28**
Bar None **24**
Caprice Nightclub **18**
Cascade Room **30**
Celebrities **25**
Cloud Nine **2**
Commodore Lanes Bowling & Billiards **17**
Doolin's **20**
Fortune Sound Club **8**
George Lounge **23**
Gotham Cocktail Bar **12**
Granville Island Brewing Co. Taproom **29**
Guu with Otokomae **4**
The Irish Heather **6**
Keefer Bar **9**
The Lennox Pub **16**
The Main on Main **31**
Railway Club **11**
Raw Canvas **21**
Republic **19**
Score on Davie **27**
Shark Club Bar & Grill **10**
Six Acres **5**
Steamworks Brewpub **3**
Sylvia's Bar **1**
Tiki Lounge at the Waldorf Hotel **32**
Yaletown Brewing Company **22**
Yew restaurant + bar **13**

Nightlife Best Bets



The Irish Heather is an authentic pub with great food.

Best **Izakaya (Japanese-Style Pub)**
★★ Guu with Otokomae, *838 Thurlow St. (p 104)*

Best **Wine Bar**
★★ 900 West Lounge, *900 W. Georgia St. (p 106)*; and ★★ Yew, *791 W. Georgia St. (p 106)*

Best **Piano Bar**
★★★ Bacchus Piano Lounge, *845 Hornby St. (p 107)*

Best **Bar with a View**
★ Sylvia's Bar, *1154 Gilford St. (p 105)*; and ★ Cloud Nine, *1400 Robson St. (p 107)*

Best **Bar for Creative Types**
★★ Raw Canvas, *1046 Hamilton St. (p 106)*

Best for **Beer Connoisseurs**
★★★ The Alibi Room, *157 Alexander St. (p 103)*

Best **Brewpub**
★ Yaletown Brewing Company, *1116 Hamilton St. (p 105)*

Best **Subterranean Bowling**
★★ Commodore Lanes Bowling and Billiards, *838 Granville St. (p 103)*

Best **Irish Pub**
★★★ The Irish Heather, *210 Carrall St. (p 104)*

Best **Free Live Music on Weekends**
★★ Main on Main, *4210 Main St. (p 104)*

Best **Sports Bar**
★ Shark Club Bar & Grill, *180 W. Georgia St. (p 105)*

Best **Old-School Cocktails**
★★★ George Ultra Lounge, *1137 Hamilton St. (p 107)*

Best **Classic Hotel Lounge**
★★ 900 West Lounge, *900 W. Georgia St. (p 106)*

Best **Gay Bar**
★★ 1181, *1181 Davie St. (p 107)*

Best **Modern-Day Opium Den**
★★★ Keefer Bar, *135 Keefer St. (p 104)*

Best **Dance Club**
★★★ Celebrities, *1022 Davie St. (p 108)*; and ★★★ Fortune Sound Club, *147 E. Pender St. (p 108)*

Vancouver Nightlife A to Z

Bowling, Billiards & Booze

★★ Commodore Lanes Bowling & Billiards DOWNTOWN Located under the Commodore Ballroom (p 115), this place has been drawing local friends, groups, and folks on active dates since 1930. Your options are 5-pin bowling, billiards, arcade games, and beer—though the latter is allowed only in a designated area behind the lanes, to avoid stickiness. ***838 Granville St. ☎ 604/681-1531. Bus: 5, 50. SkyTrain: Granville or City Centre Station. Map p 100.***

Casual Bars

★★★ The Alibi Room GASTOWN A sleek, almost minimalist room in a century-old building facing Gastown's rail yards, Alibi serves the city's best selection of craft beers, including more than 50 on tap. ***157 Alexander St. ☎ 604/623-3383. www.alibi.ca. Bus: 50. Map p 100.***

★ The Backstage Lounge GRANVILLE ISLAND Located under the Granville Bridge, this lounge has a waterfront patio with views and a stage that presents local bands at night. The clientele is part art student (the Emily Carr University is nearby) and part theater people coming from the next-door Arts Club Theatre (p 113). ***1585 Johnston St. (near the Public Market). ☎ 604/687-1354. www.thebackstagelounge.com. Bus: 50. Map p 100.***

The sleek Alibi Room is a self-described "modern tavern" that pours a very good selection of craft beers.

★ Doolin's DOWNTOWN Settle in and enjoy this Irish pub's atmosphere, with gleaming woodwork, dart boards, and pub grub. There's music (from Irish to DJ) nightly. ***654 Nelson St. ☎ 604/605-4343. www.doolins.ca. Bus: 50. SkyTrain: City Centre Station. Map p 100.***

★ Granville Island Brewing Co. Taproom GRANVILLE ISLAND Attached to one of Vancouver's

You'll find nightly music and a good atmosphere at Doolin's.

original microbreweries, the Taproom is almost cavernous (no coziness here), but there are limited-edition brews on tap, you can see the works, and they do tours daily at noon, 2, and 4pm (C$9.75 per person, including three tastings). ***1441 Cartwright St. ☎ 604/687-2739. www.gib.ca. Bus: 50. Map p 100.***

★★★ **The Irish Heather** GASTOWN Vancouver's classic, old-time, authentic (no plastic shamrocks here) Irish bar. Brick walls and dark wood make for a warm ambience. Don't miss their Long Table Series: a discount set meal served a few nights a week at a single, extremely long table—great food and a great way to meet the locals. ***210 Carrall St. ☎ 604/688-9779. www.irishheather.com. Bus: 50. Map p 100.***

★★★ **Keefer Bar** CHINATOWN Tucked away on a quiet street in Chinatown, this petite bar is modeled after centuries-old opium dens. A dark, sultry interior and creepy, old-fashioned anatomical drawings complement a selection of hand-crafted cocktails made with fresh ingredients. ***135 Keefer St. ☎ 604/688-1961. www.thekeeferbar.com. Bus: C21, C23, 50. Map p 100.***

Guu with Otokomae is one of the city's original Japanese-style pubs.

★ **The Lennox Pub** DOWNTOWN This centrally located pub has a comfortable bar atmosphere, a good beer list, a pub menu, and an outdoor patio. Oh, and they tune in all the Canucks games. ***800 Granville St. ☎ 604/408-0881. Bus: 5. SkyTrain: City Centre Station. Map p 100.***

★★ **The Main on Main** EAST VANCOUVER An institution in the indie, emerging Main Street 'hood, the Main has a rustic woody interior and features excellent lineups of free world, jazz, roots, and folk music from Friday to Sunday nights. Good Greek food, too. ***4210 Main St. ☎ 604/709-8555. www.themainonmain.ca. Bus: 3. Map p 100.***

★★ **Guu with Otokomae** GASTOWN One of Vancouver's original izakayas (Japanese-style pubs), Guu now has several locations around the city, including this conveniently located one. Expect hot pots, sushi, and deep-fried Asian appies in a loud atmosphere with Sapporo served in liter-sized mugs. ***838 Thurlow St. ☎ 604/685-8817. Bus: 50. SkyTrain: Waterfront Station. Map p 100.***

★★ **Railway Club** DOWNTOWN Hidden away above a 7-Eleven, this old-time bar with a miniature train running overhead is worn around the edges but one of the friendliest spots in town for a beer. It boasts an impressive selection of craft brews and live music seven nights a week. ***579 Dunsmuir St. ☎ 604/681-1625. www.therailwayclub.com. Bus: 5, 6. SkyTrain: Granville Station. Map p 100.***

If you're a fan of hockey (the Canucks!) and beer, the Lennox Pub is a great place to drink.

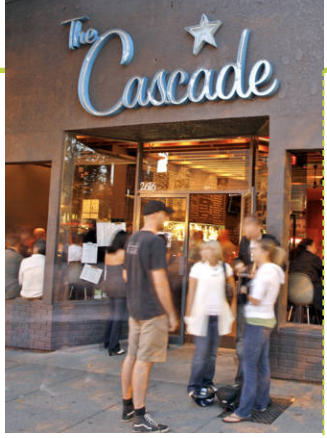
★ Shark Club Bar & Grill DOWNTOWN Located close to Vancouver's two main team-sports venues, GM Place and BC Place, this giant, glitzy chain sports bar has the requisite TVs (about three dozen of them), sports memorabilia, and tall tables for good views, but it's also got DJ entertainment after the game, and dancing on weekends. *180 W. Georgia St. ☎ 604/687-4275. www.sharkclubs.com. Bus: 15, 17. SkyTrain: Stadium/Chinatown Station. Map p 100.*

★★ Six Acres GASTOWN This stylish little spot, with exposed brick walls and a woody atmosphere, keeps about three dozen carefully chosen bottled beers from all over the world in stock for the connoisseur. There's also a menu of small sharing plates and gourmet pub dishes like cauliflower-mushroom sliders. *203 Carrall St. ☎ 604/488-0110. www.sixacres.ca. Bus: 50. Map p 100.*

★ Steamworks Brewpub GASTOWN A favorite of cruise-ship passengers coming from nearby Canada Place, this huge place has different themed rooms for different tastes, from pub to wine bar to oyster bar. It also brews its own beer, using heat from the overhead steam lines. *375 Water St. ☎ 604/689-2739. www.steamworks.com. Bus: 50. SkyTrain: Waterfront Station. Map p 100.*

★ Sylvia's Bar WEST END Vancouver's oldest cocktail lounge (it opened in 1918) is a woody, cozy, comfortable spot off the lobby of the vine-covered Sylvia Hotel. The view of English Bay through their big picture windows is sublime, especially at sunset. *1154 Gilford St. ☎ 604/681-9321. www.sylviahotel.com. Bus: 5, 6. Map p 100.*

★Yaletown Brewing Company YALETOWN This big, boisterous brewpub opened in 1994 when Yaletown was still in its warehouse-frontier stage. Today, it's an institution, its big barroom offering a fireplace, pool tables, TVs, and a selection of its own microbrews. A separate dining room caters to families. In spring and summer, take in the neighborhood scene at one of the outdoor tables. *1111 Mainland*



The Cascade Room generally hosts a cool crowd looking for classic cocktails.

St. ☎ 604/681-2739. Bus: 6, C21, C23. SkyTrain: Yaletown Station. Map p 100.

Wine Bars

★★ 900 West Lounge DOWNTOWN Regularly voted Vancouver's best wine bar, 900 West is a classic hotel bar in the lobby of the grande dame Fairmont Hotel Vancouver. The chairs are plush and deep, the wine list is impressive (the martinis rate, too), there's a pianist in the evenings, and a jazz trio plays late on Friday and Saturday nights. *900 W. Georgia St. ☎ 604/684-3131. www.fairmont.com/hotelvancouver/GuestServices/Restaurants/900WestLounge.htm. Bus: 2, 22. SkyTrain: Burrard Station. Map p 100.*

★★ Raw Canvas YALETOWN Inside this unusual wine and tapas bar, you can don a smock, buy a canvas, grab some paints, and express your inner van Gogh. Seemingly gimmicky, the idea has caught on and the place is regularly full and hosts live music. *1046 Hamilton St. ☎ 604/687-1729. www.rawcanvas.com. Bus: 6, C21, C23. SkyTrain: Yaletown Station. Map p 100.*

★★ Yew restaurant + bar DOWNTOWN The bar at the Four Seasons' stylish restaurant (p 98) offers 150 wines by the glass—they'll open any bottle as long as you commit to buying two glasses. *791 W. Georgia St., in the Four Seasons Hotel. ☎ 604/689-9333. www.yewrestaurant.com. Bus: 2, 22. SkyTrain: Burrard Station. Map p 100.*

The very chic Yew restaurant + bar has one of the best wine lists in the city.

Lounges & Cocktail Bars

★★★ Bacchus Restaurant & Piano Lounge DOWNTOWN A carved limestone fireplace, burgundy velvet banquettes, and cherrywood paneling set a mood that's as ornate and gilded as everything else at the tony Wedgewood Hotel. A hot spot for cocktail hour, the Bacchus transforms at night into an elegant piano bar. ***845 Hornby St., in the Wedgewood Hotel. ☎ 604/608-5319. www.wedgewoodhotel.com. Bus: 5. Map p 100.***

★★ Cascade Room EAST VANCOUVER This one-time brewery turned upscale British-style pub is a magnet for fashionable types of the 30-ish, hipster, "right way to make a cocktail" persuasion. Exposed wood beams, horseshoe-shaped leather booths, and drinks made with fresh-squeezed juices set the mood. ***2616 Main St. ☎ 604/709-8650. www.thecascade.ca. Bus: 3. Map p 100.***

★ Cloud Nine WEST END Every city needs a revolving cocktail lounge at the top of a skyscraper. Ride the Empire Landmark Hotel's elevator to the 42nd floor, get out, and you're in for one amazing view. Grab a cocktail, pretend it's the swingin' '70s, and enjoy. There's a DJ or live music on Friday and Saturday evenings. ***1400 Robson St. ☎ 604/687-0511. www.cloud9restaurant.ca. Bus: 5. Map p 100.***

★★★ George Lounge YALETOWN Old-school cocktails, super-stylish decor, and prosperous 30-somethings define this Yaletown spot. There's a good tapas menu, but all that fresh fruit at the bar goes into the drinks. ***1137 Hamilton St. ☎ 604/628-5555. www.georgelounge.com. Bus: 6, C21, C23. SkyTrain: Yaletown Station. Map p 100.***

★★★ Gotham Cocktail Bar DOWNTOWN The decor says power suit—as do the power suits on most of the clientele. Part of the Gotham Steakhouse (p 96), the lounge mixes a good martini, and jazz-age art, low lighting, and leather and velvet seating help complete the mood. ***615 Seymour St. ☎ 604/605-8282. www.gothamsteakhouse.com. Bus: 5, 6. SkyTrain: Granville Station. Map p 100.***

The George Lounge is where Vancouver's beautiful people meet up for cocktails.

★★ Tiki Lounge at the Waldorf Hotel EAST VANCOUVER A real tiki bar in edgy East Vancouver, the lounge is paneled in bamboo and decorated with palm trees and burlesque paintings of Polynesian dancers. It draws a hip, young crowd for excellent drinks, DJs spinning on an analog sound system, and good tapas. ***1489 E. Hastings St. ☎ 604/253-7141. www.waldorfhotel.com/tiki-bar. Bus: 10, 16, 20. Map p 100.***

Gay Bars & Clubs

★★ 1181 WEST END The city's most stylish gay bar, with the requisite polished concrete floors, cushy seating, and shoulder-to-shoulder bar area. It's known for its sexy

cocktails and creative martinis. *1181 Davie St. ☎ 604/689-3991. www.tightlounge.com. Bus: 6. Map p 100.*

★★★ **Celebrities** WEST END Vancouver's largest gay dance club attracts a mostly young crowd and lives up to its name with guests such as Boy George and Janet Jackson. The Tuesday dance party attracts a mixed gay and straight clientele. *1022 Davie St. ☎ 604/681-6180. www.celebritiesnightclub.com. Cover charge most nights. Bus: 6, 2, 22. Map p 100.*

★ **Score on Davie** DOWNTOWN Vancouver's only gay sports bar, Score shows all the games and serves an extensive menu in a pub-type atmosphere. *1262 Davie St. ☎ 604/632-1646. www.scoreondavie.com. Bus: 6. Map p 100.*

Dance Clubs/Nightclubs

★ **Bar None** YALETOWN A very Yaletown dance club, with an exposed-brick vibe, a 20- and 30-something clientele, and both live music and DJ entertainment. *1222 Hamilton St. ☎ 604/689-7000. www.donnellygroup.ca/barnone. C$18 cover on some nights. Bus: 6. SkyTrain: Yaletown Station. Map p 100.*

The two-level Republic has a large dance floor and inventive cocktail list.

★ **Caprice Nightclub** DOWNTOWN A very young, very popular club where getting in is supposed to mean something. If you can brave the lineup, expect loud Top-40 music and long waits for a drink inside this cavernous former movie theater. *967 Granville St. ☎ 604/685-3288. www.capricenightclub.com. C$12–C$15 cover most nights. Bus: 50. SkyTrain: City Centre Station. Map p 100.*

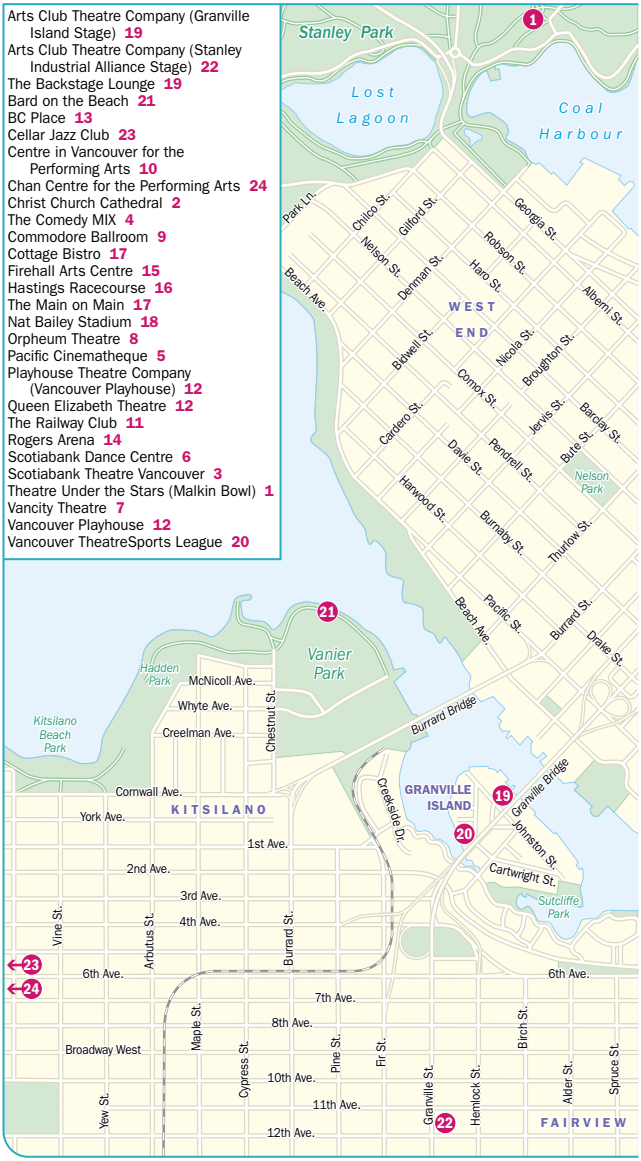
★★★ **Fortune Sound Club** CHINATOWN Housed in a renovated Chinese restaurant in otherwise sleepy-after-dark Chinatown, this unpretentious and popular club hosts hip-hop shows and also features international DJs and local artists. Great sound system. *147 E. Pender St. ☎ 604/569-1758. www.fortunesoundclub.com. C$15 cover charge some nights. Bus: 3, 19. Map p 100.*

★★ **Republic** DOWNTOWN This two-level club has a dance floor packed with 20- and 30-something scenesters and an almost room-length bar on one level, and a comfortable lounge on the other. The space itself is beautiful, and the cocktail list is inventive. *958 Granville St. ☎ 604/669-3266. www.donnellygroup.ca/republic. C$12–C$21 cover charge most nights. Bus: 50. SkyTrain: City Centre Station. Map p 100.*

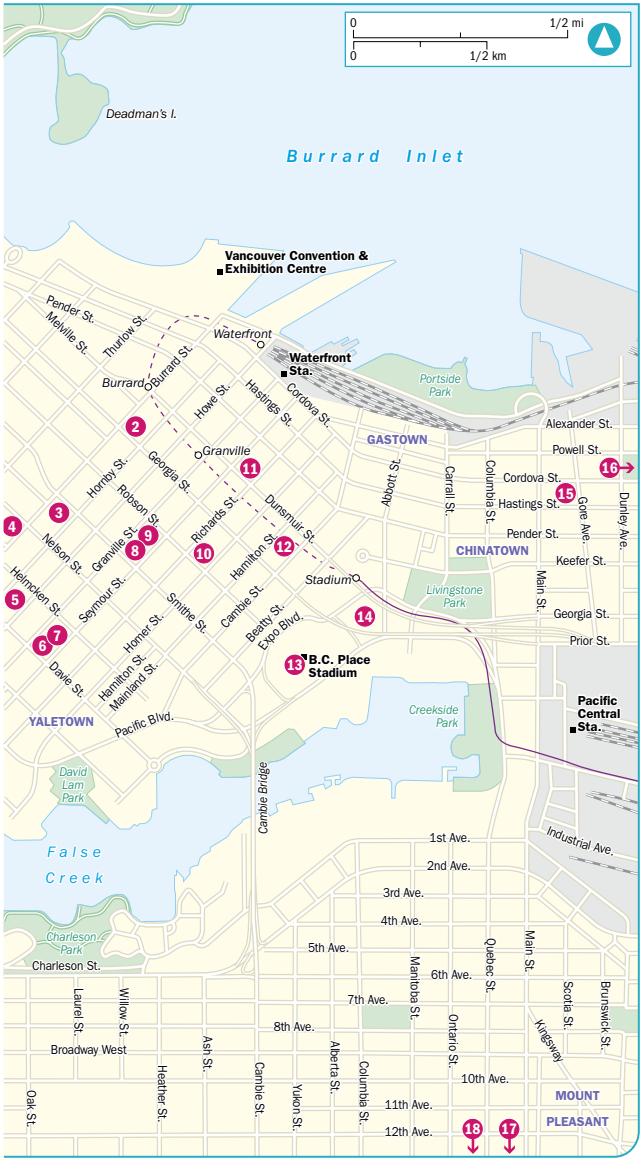
8 The Best **Arts & Entertainment**

Vancouver Arts & Entertainment

Arts Club Theatre Company (Granville Island Stage) **19**
Arts Club Theatre Company (Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage) **22**
The Backstage Lounge **19**
Bard on the Beach **21**
BC Place **13**
Cellar Jazz Club **23**
Centre in Vancouver for the Performing Arts **10**
Chan Centre for the Performing Arts **24**
Christ Church Cathedral **2**
The Comedy MIX **4**
Commodore Ballroom **9**
Cottage Bistro **17**
Firehall Arts Centre **15**
Hastings Racecourse **16**
The Main on Main **17**
Nat Bailey Stadium **18**
Orpheum Theatre **8**
Pacific Cinematheque **5**
Playhouse Theatre Company (Vancouver Playhouse) **12**
Queen Elizabeth Theatre **12**
The Railway Club **11**
Rogers Arena **14**
Scotiabank Dance Centre **6**
Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver **3**
Theatre Under the Stars (Malkin Bowl) **1**
Vancity Theatre **7**
Vancouver Playhouse **12**
Vancouver TheatreSports League **20**



Previous page: The Vancouver Opera presents both classic works and collaborations with First Nations artists.


0
1/2 mi
0
1/2 km
Deadman's I.
Burrard Inlet
Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre
Pender St.
Melville St.
Thurlow St.
Waterfront
Burrard St.
Waterfront Sta.
Howe St.
Hastings St.
Cordova St.
Portside Park
GASTOWN
Granville
Alexander St.
Powell St.
Cordova St.
Hastings St.
Pender St.
CHINATOWN
Keefer St.
Georgia St.
Prior St.
Abbott St.
Carrall St.
Columbia St.
Gore Ave.
Dunlay Ave.
Main St.
Hornby St.
Georgia St.
Robson St.
Granville St.
Nelson St.
Richards St.
Dunsmuir St.
Hamilton St.
Stadium
Livingstone Park
Helmcken St.
Seymour St.
Smithe St.
Cambie St.
Beatty St.
Expo Blvd.
Homer St.
Davie St.
Hamilton St.
Mainland St.
B.C. Place Stadium
YALETOWN
Pacific Blvd.
Creekside Park
Pacific Central Sta.
David Lam Park
Cambie Bridge
False Creek
1st Ave.
2nd Ave.
3rd Ave.
4th Ave.
5th Ave.
6th Ave.
7th Ave.
8th Ave.
Industrial Ave.
Charleson Park
Charleson St.
Laurel St.
Willow St.
Broadway West
Oak St.
Heather St.
Ash St.
Cambie St.
Yukon St.
Alberta St.
Columbia St.
Manitoba St.
Ontario St.
Quebec St.
Main St.
Scotia St.
Kingsway
Brunswick St.
10th Ave.
11th Ave.
12th Ave.
MOUNT PLEASANT
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18

Arts & Entertainment Best Bets

Best **Theater Company**
★★★ Arts Club Theatre Company, *various locations (p 113)*

Best **Outdoor Theater Experience**
★★★ Bard on the Beach, *Vanier Park (p 113)*

Best **Jazz Club**
★★★ Cellar Jazz Club, *3611 W. Broadway (p 115)*

Best **Rock Venue**
★★ Commodore Ballroom, *868 Granville St. (p 115)*

Best for **High Cs**
★★★ Vancouver Opera, *630 Hamilton St. (p 118)*

Best **Art-House Movie Theater**
★★ Vancity Theatre, *1181 Seymour St. (p 114)*

Best **Day at the Races**
★★ Hastings Racecourse, *188 N. Renfrew St. (p 119)*

Most **Essential Local Sports Experience**
★★★ Vancouver Canucks at Rogers Arena, *800 Griffiths Way (p 119)*

Best **Improv Comedy**
★★ Vancouver TheatreSports League, *1601 Johnston St. (p 115)*

Best for **Harmony**
★★ Vancouver Bach Choir, *601 Smithe St. (p 116)*

Best Place for **All Things Dance**
★★★ Scotiabank Dance Centre, *677 Davie St. (p 118)*

Best **Blues Club**
★ Cottage Bistro, *4470 Main St. (p 116)*

Best **Old Time Baseball Stadium**
★★★ Nat Bailey Stadium, *4601 Ontario St. (p 119)*

Best **Music Bar**
★★★ The Railway Club, *579 Dunsmuir St. (p 116)*

Best **Giant Festival**
★★★ Vancouver International Film Festival, *various venues (p 114)*

The Arts Club Theatre Company stages some of the city's best productions year-round.

Vancouver Arts & Entertainment A to Z

The Playhouse Theatre Company focuses on works by Canadian playwrights.

Theater

★★★ **Arts Club Theatre Company** GRANVILLE ISLAND and WEST SIDE Founded as an actual private club in 1958, the Arts Club began operating professionally in 1964 and has been at it ever since, staging professional musicals, classics, contemporary comedies, and other new works year-round at two main theaters. Their 650-seat Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage is a recently renovated grand Art Deco theater dating to 1931, while their 450-seat Granville Island Stage is a more intimate venue right in the heart of Granville Island. ☎ *604/687-1644. www.artsclub.com. Granville Island Stage, 1585 Johnston St. Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage, 2750 Granville St. Tickets C$29–C$65. Bus: 50 to Granville Island; 98B to Stanley Stage. Map p 110.*

★★★ **Bard on the Beach** WEST SIDE Every year from June through September, this nonprofit group stages daily Shakespeare plays and related dramas in two large tents in Vanier Park, right across False Creek from Downtown. In the 742-seat main tent, which has stadium-style seating, actors perform against a backdrop of mountains, sea, and sky. *Vanier Park (at Whyte Ave.).* ☎ *877/739-0559 or 604/739-0559. www.bardonthebeach.org. Tickets C$21–C$40. Bus: 2, 22. Also via False Creek Ferries from the Aquatic Centre, 1050 Beach Ave., at Thurlow St. Map p 110.*

★★ **Firehall Arts Centre** EAST VANCOUVER Occupying a 1906 firehouse, this theater presents about 300 performances a year, balancing its offerings between contemporary theater and dance, often by Canadian playwrights and choreographers. *280 E. Cordova St.* ☎ *604/689-0926. www.firehallartscentre.ca. Tickets C$23–C$30. Bus: 7, 8, 10. Map p 110.*

The Firehall Arts Centre focuses most of its performances on contemporary theater and dance.

The popular Theatre Under the Stars stages musicals each summer in Stanley Park.

★★ Playhouse Theatre Company DOWNTOWN Formed in 1963, this professional theater company presents five Canadian and international plays each year. ***601 Hamilton St. ☎ 604/665-3034. www.vancouverplayhouse.com. Tickets C$41–C$74. Bus: 5, 6. SkyTrain: Granville Station. Map p 110.***

★★ Theatre Under the Stars STANLEY PARK From mid-July to mid-August, this organization presents popular musicals such as *Grease, Annie Get Your Gun,* and *Oklahoma!* at Stanley Park's outdoor Malkin Bowl. ***Malkin Bowl, Stanley Park (near the Vancouver Aquarium). ☎ 604/734-1917 or 877/840-0457. www.tuts.ca. Adults C$29–C$44, kids 5–15 C$27–C$42. Bus: 19. Map p 110.***

Cinema

★★ Pacific Cinematheque DOWNTOWN Founded in 1972, this nonprofit society is dedicated to advancing cinema as an art. They screen retrospectives, documentaries, and independent films daily. ***1131 Howe St. ☎ 604/688-3456. www.cinematheque.bc.ca. Adults C$10.50, seniors and students C$9. Bus: 4, 6, 7. Map p 110.***

Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver DOWNTOWN The largest and most centrally located theater in Downtown, showing mainstream new releases on nine large screens with stadium seating and 3-D projection capability. ***900 Burrard St. ☎ 604/630-1407. www.cineplex.com. Age 14 and over C$13, seniors and under 14 C$10.50. Bus: 2, 22. Map p 110.***

★★ Vancity Theatre DOWNTOWN The folks behind the Vancouver International Film Festival (see below) need something to do during the rest of the year, so they present a year-round series of great new films from around the world, all in a super-comfortable environment with state-of-the-art projection. ***1181 Seymour St. ☎ 604/683-3456. www.viff.org. Adults C$11, seniors and students C$9. Bus: 4, 6, 7. SkyTrain: Yaletown Station. Map p 110.***

★★★ Vancouver International Film Festival DOWNTOWN & WEST SIDE The VIFF is Vancouver's number-one giant annual event, drawing some 150,000 attendees (including celebs) to see 350 films from around the world. It's held for 2 weeks each year in late September and early October, at venues around the city, including the Vancity Theatre and Pacific Cinematheque. ***☎ 604/685-0260. www.viff.com. $2 membership fee, plus adults C$12, seniors C$10, matinees C$10. No one under 18 may attend. Bus: 4, 6, 7.***

Comedy

★ The Comedy MIX DOWNTOWN Well-known comedians play this popular comedy club, located in the basement of the Century Plaza Hotel, from Thursday to Saturday. There's amateur and local standup on Tuesday and Wednesday. ***1015 Burrard St. ☎ 604/684-5040. www.thecomedymix.com. Tickets C$7 Tues, C$9 Wed, C$12 Thurs, C$15 Fri, C$18 Sat. No one under 19 may attend. Bus: 2, 22. Map p 110.***

Film-lovers from all over the world flock to the ultrapopular Vancouver International Film Festival each fall.

★★ Vancouver TheatreSports League GRANVILLE ISLAND Vancouver's most popular improv comedy troupe presents solo and team improv every week, Wednesday through Saturday. ***1502 Duranleau St., near entrance to Granville Island. ☎ 604/738-7013. www.vtsl.com. Adults C$7.75–C$21, seniors and students C$7.75–C$16. Anyone under age 19 must be accompanied by an adult. Bus: 50. Map p 110.***

Popular Music

★★ The Backstage Lounge GRANVILLE ISLAND A great, casual spot to hear small-scale, upbeat, and eclectic live music. ***See p 110. 1585 Johnston St. (near the Public Market). ☎ 604/687-1354. www.thebackstagelounge.com. Bus: 50. Map p 110.***

★★★ Cellar Jazz Club KITSILANO Not to be confused with the Cellar Nightclub on Granville Street, this is Vancouver's number-one jazz club (and 1 of the 100 best in the world, according to a *Downbeat* poll). It presents both local talent and international stars in a comfortable small-room atmosphere. ***3611 W. Broadway. ☎ 604/738-1959. www.cellarjazz.com. Most shows C$10–C$15, plus C$10–C$15 minimum food/beverage charge. Bus: 99B. Map p 110.***

★★ Commodore Ballroom DOWNTOWN This classic space first opened in 1929 as a dance hall and music venue, and it's still going strong, presenting big-time rock, hip-hop, reggae, and other popular music acts. Recently named one of the top 10 most influential music clubs in North America by *Billboard Magazine*. ***868 Granville St. ☎ 604/***

Vancouver's Favorite Music Festivals

Throughout the year, Vancouver hosts a number of major music festivals and many more minor ones. Among the biggest is the **Vancouver International Jazz Festival** (☎ 888/438-JAZZ or 604/872-5200; www.coastaljazz.ca), which brings in some 1,800 well-known and lesser-known musicians for some 400 concerts from June through July, many of which are free to attend. The 3-day **Vancouver Folk Festival** (☎ 604/602-9798; http://thefestival.bc.ca) offers folk traditions and stylistic updates from Canada and around the world in a beautiful waterfront setting at Jericho Beach. See p 184 for more listings.

Both local and international jazz stars take the stage at the Cellar Jazz Club, the city's best jazz venue.

739-4550. http://www.livenation.com/Commodore-Ballroom-tickets-Vancouver/venue/139274. Tickets approx. C$26–C$70. Bus: 5. SkyTrain: City Centre Station. Map p 110.

★ **Cottage Bistro** EAST VANCOUVER With the beloved Yale Hotel closed for renos, this is Vancouver's only real blues bar. It's short on ambience, the food is mediocre, and the owner is a bit brusque, but the venue features decent local and out-of-town blues bands every night. *4470 Main St. ☎ 604/876-6138. www.cottage-bistro.com. No cover some nights, others C$5–C$15. Bus: 3. Map p 110.*

★★ **The Main on Main** EAST VANCOUVER Free roots, blues, and folk music from Friday to Sunday in a welcoming tavern atmosphere with great Greek food. *4210 Main St. ☎ 604/709-8555. www.themainonmain.ca. Bus: 3. Map p 110.*

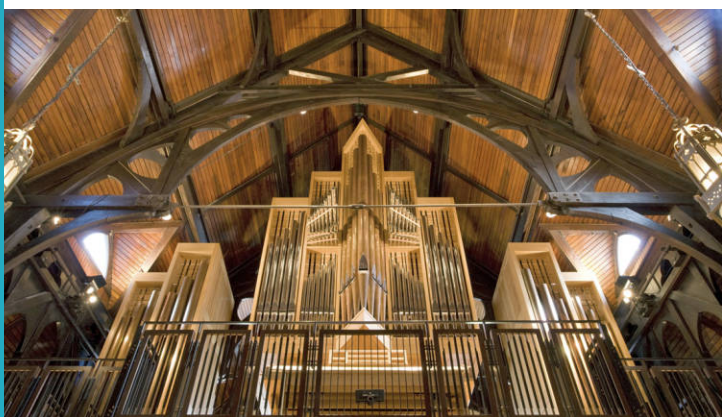
★★★ **The Railway Club** DOWNTOWN A true music bar, the Railway has bands 7 nights a week, good beer, and a comfortable, lived-in atmosphere. *579 Dunsmuir St. ☎ 604/681-1625. www.therailwayclub.com. Bus: 5, 6. SkyTrain: Granville Station. Map p 110.*

Classical Music & Opera

★★ **Vancouver Bach Choir** DOWNTOWN This award-winning choir (it gave its first concert in 1930) presents five concerts annually, including a popular sing-along of Handel's *Messiah.* (See, they don't just do Bach.) *☎ 604/872-8789. www.vancouverbachchoir.com. Concerts at the Orpheum Theatre, 601 Smithe St. Tickets for most performances C$32–C$54. Bus: 4, 6, 7. SkyTrain: City Centre Station. Map p 110.*

★★ **Vancouver Cantata Singers** VARIOUS LOCATIONS While specializing in music of the Baroque

Christ Church Cathedral's excellent acoustics are put to use throughout the year during numerous recitals and organ concerts.



Vancouver's Classical Performance Venues

As in most major cities, many of Vancouver's chamber, choir, and other classical music and dance groups present their performances in a variety of venues. These are the major ones:

- **Orpheum Theatre,** 601 Smithe St. (☎ 604/665-3050; http://vancouver.ca/commsvcs/cultural/theatres/orpheum/index.htm): Built as a vaudeville house in 1927, this 2,688-seat theater is the city's top concert hall and home to the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.
- **Queen Elizabeth Theatre,** 630 Hamilton St. (☎ 604/665-3050; http://vancouver.ca/commsvcs/cultural/theatres/qet/): Built in 1959, this 2,900-seat theater presents everything from classical and opera to ballet and Broadway on its wide stage.
- **Vancouver Playhouse,** 601 Hamilton St. (☎ 604/873-3311; www.vancouverplayhouse.com): This intimate, 700-seat theater is part of the Queen Elizabeth Theatre complex. It's home to the Playhouse Theatre Company, which presents musicals and plays.
- **Chan Centre for the Performing Arts,** 6265 Crescent Rd., University of British Columbia campus (☎ 604/822-9187; www.chancentre.com): This distinctive, cylindrical, zinc-clad building houses a 1,200-seat main theater and several smaller halls.
- **Centre in Vancouver for the Performing Arts,** 777 Homer St. (☎ 604/602-0616; www.centreinvancouver.com): This 1,850-seat downtown venue is primarily a roadhouse for bigger-name touring acts, everything from rock bands to comedy tours, ballets, and even Betty White.
- **Christ Church Cathedral,** 690 Burrard St. (☎ 604/682-3848; www.cathedral.vancouver.bc.ca): Built between 1891 and 1895, this Anglican church presents frequent choir, orchestra, recital, and organ concerts.

era, this choir also performs new works from regional and international composers. Performances take place in different venues around the city, including the Roundhouse Community Centre. ☎ *604/730-8856. www.vancouvercantatasingers.com. Tickets for most performances C$18–C$30.*

★★ Vancouver Chamber Choir
VARIOUS LOCATIONS This award-winning 20-person group has a diverse repertoire, from chant to avant-garde, folk song to jazz. Concerts take place at various venues, including the Orpheum Theatre and Christ Church Cathedral. ☎ *604/738-6822. www.vancouverchamberchoir.com. Tickets for most performances C$30–C$55.* *Map p 110.*

★★★ **Vancouver Opera** DOWNTOWN Founded in 1958, the Vancouver Opera is the second largest opera company in Canada, presenting great works from the canon as well as contemporary productions and musical theater such as *West Side Story*. ☎ ***604/683-0222. www.vancouveropera.ca. Performances take place at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, 630 Hamilton St. Tickets C$35–C$190. Bus: 5, 6. Map p 110.***

★★ **Vancouver Symphony Orchestra** DOWNTOWN & VARIOUS Vancouver's big-time orchestra, founded in 1919, presents more than 150 concerts a year at various venues, including its main home, the Orpheum Theatre. ☎ ***604/876-3434. www.vancouversymphony.ca. Tickets C$27–C$84. Map p 110.***

Dance

★★ **Ballet British Columbia** DOWNTOWN A relatively young company, the BBC mixes popular ballet (the obligatory *Nutcracker* and *Swan Lake,* among recent performances) with newer works by Canadian choreographers and collaborations with visual artists, theater directors, and others. ☎ ***604/732-5003. www.balletbc.com. Most performances take place at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. Tickets C$30–C$77.50. Bus: 5, 6. Map p 110.***

★★ **Dancing on the Edge Festival** VARIOUS LOCATIONS Held each July, this 10-day festival presents some 30 works by choreographers from Vancouver and elsewhere. ☎ ***604/689-0926. www.dancingontheedge.org. Performances at various venues, including the Firehall Arts Centre and Scotiabank Dance Centre. Adults C$28, seniors and students C$26. Map p 110.***

★★ **Firehall Arts Centre** EAST VANCOUVER *See p 113. Map p 110.*

★★★ **Scotiabank Dance Centre** DOWNTOWN Opened in 2001, this space is the hub of Vancouver's dance scene, offering performances, classes, workshops, rehearsal space, and other dance events year-round. ***677 Davie St.*** ☎ ***604/606-6400. www.thedancecentre.ca. Tickets for most performances C$10–C$28. Bus: 4, 6, 7. Map p 110.***

Spectator Sports

★★ **BC Place** DOWNTOWN Recently retrofitted with a C$600-million retractable roof, this 52,000-seat stadium is home to the BC Lions of the Canadian Football

Ballet British Columbia mixes classics with newer works.

The annual Dancing on the Edge Festival celebrating contemporary dance is one of the city's most prestigious events.

League and the Vancouver Whitecaps of Major League Soccer. It also hosts arena-type rock concerts. ***777 Pacific Blvd. www.bcplacestadium.com. For Lions information, see www.bclions.com. For Whitecaps information, see www.whitecapsfc.com. Get tickets through Ticketmaster at www.ticketmaster.ca or ☎ 855/985-5000. Lions tickets C$35–C$132. Whitecaps tickets C$20–C$140. Bus: C21, C23. SkyTrain: Stadium/Chinatown Station. Map p 110.***

★★ **Hastings Racecourse** EAST VANCOUVER This undervisited spot not far from downtown offers thoroughbred racing with a gorgeous mountain backdrop. There's live racing most weekends from April to November and simulcast year-round. ***188 N. Renfrew St. ☎ 604/254-1631. www.hastingsracecourse.com. Bus: 2, 4. Races start 1:20pm on Sat–Sun and also, from May–Sept, 7pm on Fri. Map p 110.***

★★★ **Nat Bailey Stadium** WEST SIDE Completed in 1951, this 5,000-seat baseball stadium is home to the minor league Class A Vancouver Canadians, whose short season runs from mid-June to September. A vintage ballpark with loyal fans in a quaint residential neighborhood, the "Nat" is a great spot to take in a game on a warm summer night. ***4601 Ontario St. ☎ 604/872-5232. http://web.minorleaguebaseball.com/index.jsp?sid=t435. Tickets C$12.50–C$22. Bus: 3. Map p 110.***

★★★ **Rogers Arena** DOWNTOWN Canada = Hockey and Vancouver = the Vancouver Canucks, the city's National Hockey League team. This C$150-million arena (opened in 1995) is the Canucks' home. Take in the action if you can get tickets, but keep in mind every game since November 4, 2002, has sold out. ***800 Griffiths Way. www.rogersarena.ca. For Canucks' information, see http://canucks.nhl.com. Get tickets through Ticketmaster at www.ticketmaster.ca or ☎ 855/985-5000. Tickets C$50–C$255. Bus: C21, C23. SkyTrain: Stadium/Chinatown Station. Map p 110.*** ●

The Sporting Life

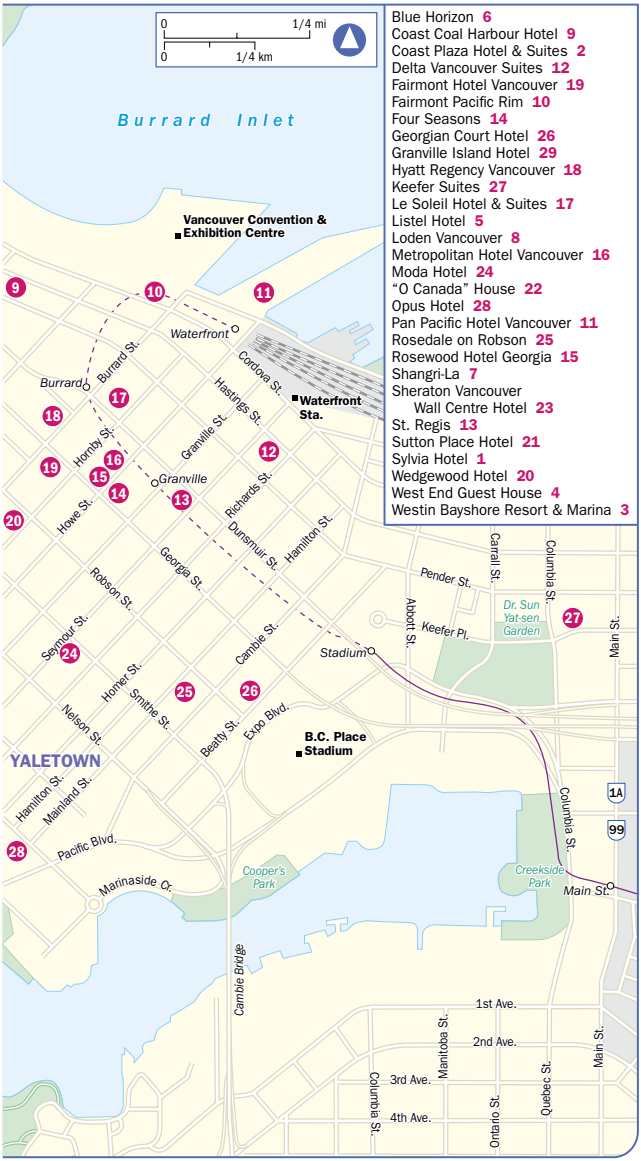
Vancouver takes its hockey very seriously. (When the hometown Canucks lost the Stanley Cup final in seven games in 2011, the city erupted in widespread riots.) Canucks games (Sept–Apr, extending to June for playoffs; tickets starting at C$50; http://canucks.nhl.com) at Rogers Arena (p 119) are guaranteed sellouts, with scalpers and resellers charging a hefty markup. If you don't want to break the bank on tickets, or are visiting during the off season, here are a few spectator sports alternatives:

- **Vancouver Giants:** Part of the Western Hockey League, this junior team for younger players attracts up-and-coming talent and has a loyal fan base. The Giants play at Pacific Coliseum (100 N. Renfrew St.; ☎ 604/253-2311; www.pne.ca), an atmospheric, 16,000-seat stadium on the edge of the city at the PNE fairgrounds. The regular season runs December to March. Tickets start at C$20. www.vancouvergiants.com.
- **BC Lions:** One of eight teams in the Canadian Football League, the Lions are riding high after winning the 2011 Grey Cup, the Super Bowl of the CFL. They play in the recently refurbished BC Place (p 118), a 52,000-seat arena with a retractable roof located downtown. Played with three downs (rather than four, as in the NFL), CFL games are fast-paced and fun to watch. The regular season runs June to October. Tickets start at C$35. www.bclions.com.
- **Vancouver Whitecaps:** The newest Major League Soccer franchise, the Whitecaps kicked off their inaugural season in 2011, finishing in last place. Still, the games are fun to watch, attract the typical soccer fanatics, and are a cheap way to experience beautiful BC Place (p 118), the city's biggest and snazziest stadium. The regular season runs March to October. Tickets start at C$21.50. www.whitecapsfc.com.
- **Vancouver Canadians:** This minor-league Class A baseball team plays in the Northwest League and is affiliated with the Toronto Blue Jays. The Canadians have a storied past (Jose Canseco and Sammy Sosa are two former players), a very loyal fan base, and play in atmospheric Nat Bailey Stadium (p 119), a 5,000-seater in a quaint, residential neighborhood. The regular season runs mid-June to September. Tickets start at C$12.50. http://web.minorleaguebaseball.com/index.jsp?sid=t435.

9 The **Best Hotels**

Vancouver Accommodations

Previous page: The Victorian-style West End Guest House is among the best B&Bs in Vancouver.



Blue Horizon 6
Coast Coal Harbour Hotel 9
Coast Plaza Hotel & Suites 2
Delta Vancouver Suites 12
Fairmont Hotel Vancouver 19
Fairmont Pacific Rim 10
Four Seasons 14
Georgian Court Hotel 26
Granville Island Hotel 29
Hyatt Regency Vancouver 18
Keefer Suites 27
Le Soleil Hotel & Suites 17
Listel Hotel 5
Loden Vancouver 8
Metropolitan Hotel Vancouver 16
Moda Hotel 24
"O Canada" House 22
Opus Hotel 28
Pan Pacific Hotel Vancouver 11
Rosedale on Robson 25
Rosewood Hotel Georgia 15
Shangri-La 7
Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel 23
St. Regis 13
Sutton Place Hotel 21
Sylvia Hotel 1
Wedgewood Hotel 20
West End Guest House 4
Westin Bayshore Resort & Marina 3

Hotel Best Bets

Best **Grand Historic Hotel**
★★★ Fairmont Hotel Vancouver $$$ *900 W. Georgia St. (p 125)*

Best **Swanky New Hotel**
★★★ Fairmont Pacific Rim $$$ *1038 Canada Place (p 126)*

Best for **Old World Charm**
★★★ Wedgewood Hotel $$$ *845 Hornby St. (p 130)*

Best **Hotel for Refined Asian-Styled Elegance**
★★★ Shangri-La $$$ *1128 W. Georgia St. (p 129)*

Best for **Business Travelers**
★★ Hyatt Regency $$$ *655 Burrard St. (p 126)*

Best **Inexpensive Stylish Digs**
★ Moda Hotel $ *900 Seymour St. (p 128)*

The Pan Pacific Hotel sits atop Canada Place, yielding spectacular views of Burrard Inlet.

Best **Discreet, Celebrity-Friendly Hotel**
★★ Sutton Place Hotel $$$ *845 Burrard St. (p 130)*

Most **Romantic Hotel**
★★★ Wedgewood Hotel $$$ *845 Hornby St. (p 130)*

Best **B&B**
★★ West End Guest House $ *1362 Haro St. (p 130)*

Best **Views**
★★ Pan Pacific $$$ *999 Canada Place (p 128)*; and ★ Coast Plaza $$ *1763 Comox St. (p 125)*

Best for **Art Lovers**
★★ Listel Hotel $$$ *1300 Robson St. (p 127)*

Best **Cheap Hotel in an Idyllic Location**
★ Sylvia Hotel $ *1154 Gilford St. (p 130)*

Best for **Friendly Staff**
★ Blue Horizon $ *1225 Robson St. (p 125)*

Most **Stylin' Hotel Restaurant**
★★★ Yew at the Four Seasons $$$ *791 W. Georgia St. (p 126)*

Best **Classic 1920s Hotel Restored to Its Former Glory**
★★★ Rosewood Hotel Georgia $$$ *801 W. Georgia St. (p 129)*

Best **Pool & Health Club**
★★★ Four Seasons $$$ *791 W. Georgia St. (p 126)*

Best **Hotel Spa**
★★★ Willow Stream at Fairmont Pacific Rim $$$ *1038 Canada Place (p 126)*

Best **Hotel Value**
★ Blue Horizon $ *1225 Robson St. (p 125)*

Vancouver Hotels A to Z

A twin-bedded room at the Delta Vancouver Suites.

★ **Blue Horizon** WEST END Low prices, a prime location, a super friendly staff, and great views from the top 15 floors. Every room has a balcony, which offsets the only-average decor. ***1225 Robson St. ☎ 800/663-1333 or 604/688-1411. www.bluehorizonhotel.com. 214 units. Doubles C$115–C$329. AE, DC, MC, V. Bus: 5. Map p 123.***

★★ **Coast Coal Harbour Hotel** DOWNTOWN Opened in 2010, this 20-story high-rise has spacious, immaculate rooms; a chic, modern lobby and restaurant; and—perhaps most importantly—a prime location just 2 blocks from the Coal Harbour seawall. Be sure to request a room with views of the harbor and North Shore Mountains. ***1180 W. Hastings St. ☎ 800/716-6199 or 604/697-0202. www.coastcoalharbour.com. 220 units. Doubles C$269–C$359. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 19. Map p 123.***

★ **Coast Plaza Hotel & Suites** WEST END A rare high-rise hotel in the West End, with a great location, amazing views from most floors, plus a huge rooftop garden around its main tower. Decor is unimaginative and sorely in need of an update, but suites are spacious and have full kitchens. ***1763 Comox St. ☎ 800/716-6199 or 604/688-7711. www.coasthotels.com. 269 units. Doubles C$239–C$359. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 5. Map p 123.***

★★ **Delta Vancouver Suites** DOWNTOWN All-suite high-rise close to Canada Place and Gastown. Suites' decor is comfortable business-hotel style, with lots of amenities but no kitchens. ***550 W. Hastings St. ☎ 888/890-3222 or 604/689-8188. www.deltahotels.com. 225 units. Suites C$249–C$299. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 5, 6. SkyTrain: Waterfront Station. Map p 123.***

★★★ **Fairmont Hotel Vancouver** DOWNTOWN If you're looking for *the* classic old Vancouver hotel, this is it, a stately, 17-floor copper-roofed pre-war with a grand marble lobby, classic lobby bar (p 106), and the overall ambience of a 1930s movie. Favorite touch? The resident dogs that greet guests in the lobby. ***900 W. Georgia St. ☎ 866/540-4452***

For luxe accommodations in Vancouver, it's hard to beat the Four Seasons.

or 604/684-3131. www.fairmont.com/hotelvancouver. 556 units. Doubles C$259–C$289. AE, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 2, 22, 5. SkyTrain: Burrard Station. Map p 123.

★★★ Fairmont Pacific Rim DOWNTOWN One of a crop of new hotels built in advance of the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, this luxury high-rise offers a bit of Miami Beach swank in downtown Vancouver. Standard rooms and a handful of suites are immaculate and ultramodern (though with perhaps too many electronic gizmos). There's a lively lobby bar; an enormous rooftop patio with pool, hot tub, and even palm trees; and arguably the city's best spa, Willow Stream. Higher-floor rooms offer great views of Stanley Park and the North Shore. *1038 Canada Place. ☎ 877/900-5350 or 604/695-5300. www.fairmont.com/pacificrim. 377 units. Doubles C$379–C$499. AE, DC, MC, V. SkyTrain: Burrard or Waterfront Station. Map p 123.*

★★★ Four Seasons DOWNTOWN Traditional luxury hotel with a perfect downtown location near museums and shopping. Rooms are done in classic, comfortable style, and the heated pool is the most beautiful in town—half indoor and half out, on a garden terrace surrounded by skyscrapers. The lobby restaurant, Yew, is a stunner too (p 98). *791 W. Georgia St. ☎ 800/819-5053 or 604/689-9333. www.fourseasons.com/vancouver. 372 units. Doubles C$355–C$435. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 2, 22. SkyTrain: Burrard Station. Map p 123.*

★ Georgian Court Hotel DOWNTOWN Not as central as other downtown options, the Georgian Court nevertheless offers comfortable rooms and suites in a unique, non-touristy location on the edge of Yaletown and Chinatown. Recently remodeled, the hotel has few frills but is a good value. *773 Beatty St. ☎ 800/663-1155 or 604/682-5555. www.georgiancourthotelvancouver.com. 180 units. Doubles C$189–C$199. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 15, 17. SkyTrain: Stadium Station. Map p 123.*

★★ Granville Island Hotel GRANVILLE ISLAND The only hotel on Granville Island offers a quiet waterside location; comfortable if not eye-popping rooms; an on-site brewpub and restaurant with waterfront patios; and proximity to the island's theaters, shopping, restaurants, and bars. Only drawback of the island experience? Expensive cab rides back from downtown after dark. *1253 Johnston St. ☎ 800/663-1840 or 604/683-7373. www.granvilleislandhotel.com. 82 units. Doubles C$245–C$260. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 50. Map p 123.*

★★ Hyatt Regency Vancouver DOWNTOWN Near the downtown waterfront and surrounded by high-end shopping and restaurants, this double-duty business/leisure hotel has spacious, comfortable rooms with crisp but not severe decor and an outdoor heated pool. Only corner rooms have balconies, but others offer good views. *655 Burrard St. ☎ 800/633-7313 or 604/683-1234. www.vancouver.hyatt.com. 644 units. Doubles C$249–C$299. AE,*

The lobby of the luxurious Le Soleil Hotel & Suites.

DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 2, 22. SkyTrain: Burrard Station. Map p 123.

★★★ Keefer Suites GASTOWN Looking for a once-in-a-lifetime accommodations experience (with a price tag to match)? The boutique Keefer consists of just four enormous two-bedroom suites (each with private elevator access), outfitted with gallery-worthy art, a chef's kitchen, heated wood flooring, and full dining room. High rollers should consider the penthouse, whose rooftop deck has a private lap pool and hot tub. The edgy location near Chinatown should appeal to serious trendsetters. ***133 Keefer St. ☎ 888-688-1983 or 604-688-1983. www.thekeefer.com. 4 units. Suites C$700. AE, MC, V. Bus: 3, 4, 7. SkyTrain: Stadium Station. Map p 123.***

★★ Le Soleil Hotel & Suites DOWNTOWN A luxe French country hotel in the heart of Downtown. Expect lots of rich fabrics, gold trim, and plush carpeting, plus wonderful service. ***567 Hornby St. ☎ 877/632-3030 or 604/632-3000. www.hotellesoleil.com. 119 units. Doubles C$385–C$500. AE, MC, V. Bus: 98B. SkyTrain: Burrard Station. Map p 123.***

★★ Listel Hotel WEST END An environmentally friendly, zero-waste hotel for art lovers, the Listel has "Gallery Rooms" with modern and contemporary artwork and "Museum Rooms" featuring art and furnishings by First Nations artists loaned by the city's Museum of Anthropology. The decor is clean and minimal, the vibe is friendly and educated, and downstairs there's O'Douls, a great live jazz bar. ***1300 Robson St. ☎ 800/663-5491 or 604/684-8461. www.thelistelhotel.com. 129 units. Doubles C$154–C$176. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 5. Map p 123.***

★★ Loden Vancouver WEST END At the edge of Coal Harbour, this 14-story boutique hotel (built in 2008) is aimed at travelers with lots of style and even more cash. Room decor is immaculately modern, with razor-edge lines softened by plush beds and luxe linens, plus floor-to-ceiling windows. Bathrooms have heated floors, and a sliding wall lets in natural light from the bedroom. The street-level restaurant and lounge are ultrachic. ***1177 Melville St. ☎ 877/225-6336 or 604/669-5060. www.theloden.com. 77 units. Doubles C$259–C$289. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 19. Map p 123.***

★★ Metropolitan Hotel Vancouver DOWNTOWN Centrally located luxury hotel with great, free-flowing feng shui. Rooms are luxe-homey, with great beds and marble bathrooms. There's a heated indoor pool under a curving glass roof, and a great restaurant, Diva at the Met

(p 95). *645 Howe St. ☎ 800/667-2300 or 604/687-1122. www.metropolitan.com/vanc. 197 units. Doubles C$220–C$245. AE, MC, V. Bus: 2, 22. SkyTrain: Granville or City Centre Station. Map p 123.*

★ **Moda Hotel** DOWNTOWN Built in 1908, this place was completely transformed 100 years later into a hip, modern hotel mixing original details with stylish touches. It has a unique location on a residential street but is just 1 block from the lively Granville Street district. Rooms (all nearly identical) are done in a simple, youthful, minimalist style. There's an intimate wine bar off the lobby, as well as a popular sports bar next door. *900 Seymour St. ☎ 604/683-4251. www.modahotel.ca. 57 units. Doubles C$272–C$317. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 6. SkyTrain: Granville or City Centre Station. Map p 123.*

★★ **"O Canada" House** WEST END An 1897 Victorian built by a composer of Canada's national anthem. Meticulously restored, with a cozy front parlor with fireplace; wraparound front porch; and rooms with period furnishings and private bathrooms. Expect a complimentary glass of sherry in the afternoon and an enormous home-cooked breakfast. *1114 Barclay St. ☎ 877/688-1114 or 604/688-0555. www.ocanadahouse.com. 7 units. Doubles C$135–C$285. MC, V. Bus: 2, 22. Map p 123.*

★★★ **Opus Hotel** YALETOWN Among Vancouver's most stylish digs, the seven-story Opus exists on the border of fashion and fantasy—fashion from the lobby lounge (Vancouver's hottest, with guest international DJs and lines of limos out front most nights), fantasy from the design concept. Five imaginary guests (a rock star, fashion exec, doctor, actress, and food critic) were used to create the five different room types, designed to their tastes. Expect super-stylish decor and artwork, lots of natural light, a playful color scheme, and plenty of amenities, all right in the heart of the hip Yaletown warehouse district. *322 Davie St. ☎ 866/642-6787 or 604/642-6787. www.opushotel.com/vancouver. 96 units. Doubles C$259–C$391. AE, MC, V. Bus: C21, C23, 6. SkyTrain: Yaletown Station. Map p 123.*

★★ **Pan Pacific Hotel Vancouver** DOWNTOWN Topping Canada Place, this 23-story hotel is built on a pier extending into Burrard Inlet, offering perhaps the best views in the city. Rooms are spacious, comfortable, and contemporary, and there's a heated, outdoor saltwater pool and an excellent spa and health club. *999*

The lobby at Loden Vancouver is emblematic of the hotel's stylish modern design.

The Penthouse Suite at the "O Canada" House.

Canada Place, at north terminus of Burrard St. ☎ 800/663-1515 in Canada, 800/937-1515 from the U.S., or 604/662-8111. www.panpacific vancouver.com. 504 units. Doubles C$329–C$429. AE, DC, MC, V. Bus: 2, 22. SkyTrain: Waterfront Station. Map p 123.

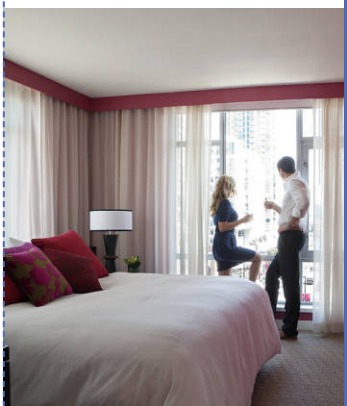
★ **Rosedale on Robson** DOWNTOWN Good value and location on Library Square, plus an indoor lap pool and a lovely roof garden. All rooms are one- and two-bedroom suites with kitchens and average furnishings. *838 Hamilton St. ☎ 800/661-8870 or 604/689-8033. www. rosedaleonrobson.com. 225 units. Suites C$189–C$279. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 5. Map p 123.*

★★★ **Rosewood Hotel Georgia** DOWNTOWN Inaugurated in 1927, the historic Rosewood has played host to Kate Hepburn, Elvis, and British royalty over the years. After a multiyear reno, it reopened in 2011 positively gleaming with old-school elegance: from the dark woods in the lobby to the richly appointed guest rooms. It's home to the sophisticated Hawksworth Restaurant and an intimate nightclub with live entertainment. *801 W. Georgia St. ☎ 604/682-5566. www. rosewoodhotelgeorgia.com. 154 units. Doubles C$375–C$470. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 4, 6, 7. SkyTrain: City Centre Station. Map p 123.*

★★★ **Shangri-La** DOWNTOWN Opened in 2009 and housed in the city's tallest building, the high-luxury Asian chain has a 2:1 staff-to-guest ratio but dispenses with fawning service for understated hospitality. Rooms are contemporary with Asian touches, like sliding rice-paper doors and original artwork, while the hotel's fine French restaurant is overseen by three-Michelin-starred chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten. *1128 W. Georgia St. ☎ 604/689-1120. www. shangri-la.com/vancouver. 119 units. Doubles C$425–C$485. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 5. SkyTrain: Burrard Station. Map p 123.*

★★ **Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel** DOWNTOWN Taking up a whole city block and looking

Opus Hotel aims to be the most stylish hotel in Yaletown.



like a space-age corporate office park, the Sheraton caters to many business travelers and tour groups. Rooms are done in a contemporary, light-toned style, and there's a huge health club with an indoor pool. ***1088 Burrard St. ☎ 800/325-3535 or 604/331-1000. www.sheratonvancouver.com. 733 units. Doubles C$195–C$325. AE, DC, MC, V. Bus: 2, 22. Map p 123.***

★ **St. Regis** DOWNTOWN Built in 1913, the six-story St. Regis got a C$6.5-million renovation in 2008 that gave its rooms a contemporary kick, with clean lines and lovely bathrooms. It has a boutique feel, comes with a slew of nice amenities, and is a good value considering the central location downtown. ***602 Dunsmuir St. ☎ 800/770-7929 or 604/681-1135. www.stregishotel.com. 65 units. Doubles C$209–C$239. AE, MC, V. Bus: 4, 5, 6. SkyTrain: Granville Station. Map p 123.***

★★ **Sutton Place Hotel** DOWNTOWN Discreet, traditionally luxurious, and popular with movie types. Though the architecture is bland outside, inside rooms are done in tasteful European style, with the usual accouterment of flatscreen TVs, comfy beds with fine linens, and top-end bathroom products. There's a woody, old-world bar; a beautiful indoor pool and outdoor garden; and a restaurant that serves a popular formal afternoon tea. ***845 Burrard St. ☎ 866/378-8866 or 604/682-5511. www.vancouver.suttonplace.com. 397 units. Doubles C$374–C$425. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 2, 22, 44. SkyTrain: Burrard Station. Map p 123.***

★ **Sylvia Hotel** WEST END Built in 1912, the Sylvia is a sentimental favorite and incredible value, popular for its English Bay location, old-fashioned, vine-covered character, and Sylvia's Bar (p 105). Rooms are dated, lack pizazz, and have small windows, but you still gotta love the place. Ask for a bay-facing room in the hotel's old section. ***1154 Gilford St. ☎ 604/681-9321. www.sylviahotel.com. 120 units. Doubles C$139–C$219. AE, DC, MC, V. Bus: 5, 6. Map p 123.***

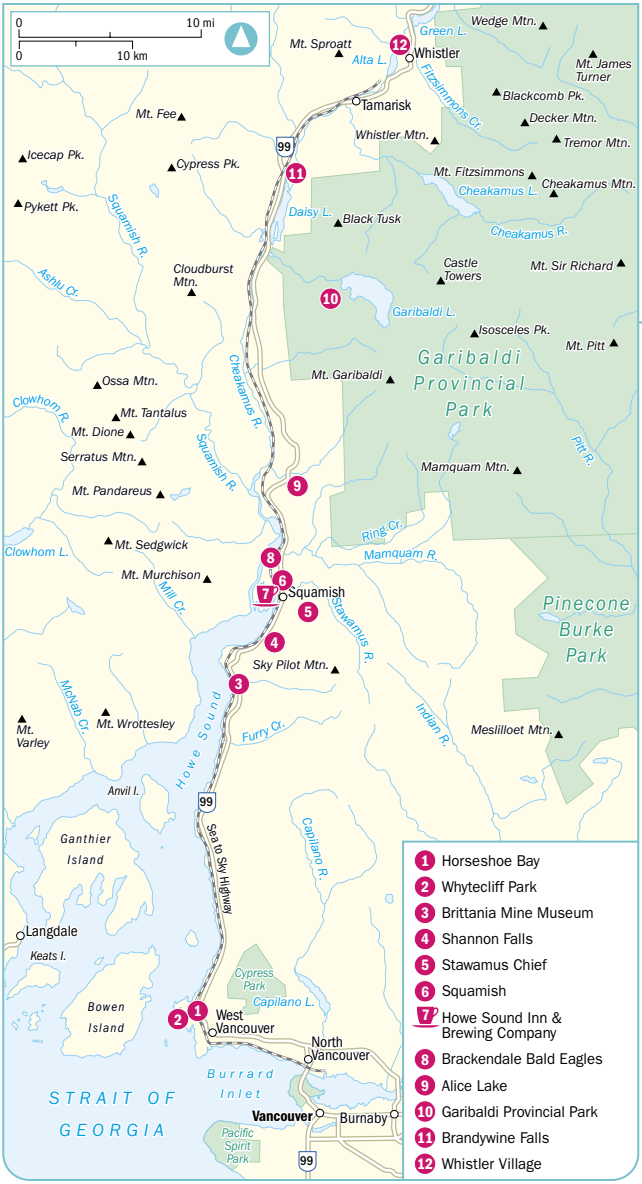
★★★ **Wedgewood Hotel** DOWNTOWN If you're looking for ornate, old-world elegance (think top-hatted doormen and Oriental rugs), this is your place. Located opposite Robson Square, it offers a wide selection of rooms and suites, as well as a great, old-money lounge with plenty of dark wood and red velvet. All rooms have balconies, though those on the upper floors facing Hornby are best. ***845 Hornby St. ☎ 800/663-0666 or 604/689-7777. www.wedgewoodhotel.com. 83 units. Doubles C$268–C$368. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 5. SkyTrain: Burrard or City Centre Station. Map p 123.***

★★ **West End Guest House** WEST END Just 1 block from Robson Street, this ornate (and pink!) Victorian exudes the vibe of an older, stuffier Vancouver. It's full of polished woodwork, palms, brocade wallpaper, and a mix of period and modern furnishings. Each room is different, some with a fireplace, others with divan lounges and skylights. ***1362 Haro St. ☎ 888/546-3327 or 604/681-2889. www.westendguesthouse.com. 8 units. Doubles C$145–C$245. AE, DISC, MC, V. Bus: 5. Map p 123.***

★★ **Westin Bayshore Resort & Marina** COAL HARBOUR Located right on Coal Harbour, this is the only Vancouver hotel you can access by car, boat, or seaplane. Rooms are cheerfully modern, with large windows and elegant bathrooms (pricier rooms have better views). Niceties include indoor/outdoor pools and proximity to Stanley Park. ***1601 Bayshore Dr. ☎ 800/937-8461 or 604/682-3377. www.westinbayshore.com. 511 units. Doubles C$242–C$399. AE, DC, MC, V. Bus: 19. Map p 123.***

10 The Best Day Trips & Excursions

The Sea to Sky Highway



Previous page: Fan Tan Alley in Victoria's Chinatown bills itself as the world's narrowest street.

The driving route between Vancouver and Whistler is an attraction all in itself, a gorgeous 105km (65-mile) road trip that starts at West Vancouver's Horseshoe Bay, slaloms along the edge of steep, rainforest-lined Howe Sound (North America's southernmost fjord), then zigzags into the mountains en route to skiing paradise. BC gave the route C$600 million in improvements in preparation for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, and what it's lost in two-lane charm, it's gained in safety and drivability. The whole trip takes about 2 hours without traffic, but there's enough to see along the way to make it a full-day excursion. START: **From Downtown Vancouver, take W. Georgia Street (aka Hwy. 99) north through Stanley Park and across the Lions Gate Bridge into West Vancouver, then follow the signs until 99 turns into the Sea to Sky.**

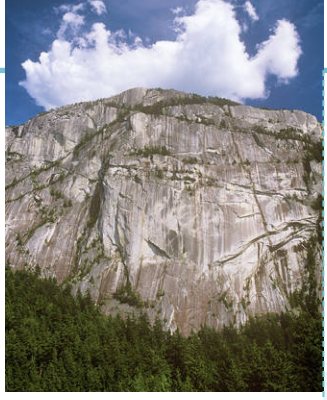
1 ★ **Horseshoe Bay.** The official starting point of the Sea to Sky is also one of Vancouver's main ferry hubs, with boats leaving for Vancouver Island and the nearby Sunshine Coast. It's a very picturesque spot, with a lovely marina and a town full of little shops and restaurants. 🕘 *30–45 min. Located at mile 0, where Hwy. 99 turns sharply north.*

2 ★★★ **Whytecliff Park.** Cliffs plunge down to the brisk waters of Howe Sound at this popular park, which is easily accessible from the road and offers dramatic views and great swimming during the summer. You can lay out a blanket and picnic on the cliffs, sunbathe on the pebble beach below, or visit the seals that hang out on a rugged island accessible from land at low tide. Whytecliff is small but has good amenities, including picnic tables, change rooms, and a playground. 🕘 *30 min., more for activities. Located in the 7000 block of Marine Dr. in Horseshoe Bay. www.westvancouver.ca/Visitors/Level3.aspx?id=1216.*

3 ★ kids **Britannia Mine Museum.** It would be easy to drive past the little town of Britannia Beach were it not for the unbelievably enormous ore truck and the weird building that steps up the hillside behind it. Welcome to the

A ferry to Vancouver Island crosses Horseshoe Bay.

Britannia Mine Museum, situated on what was once the largest copper mine in the British Empire. Visitors can tour the mill, don hardhats and headlamps for a guided tour through the mine tunnels, see demos on mining and fossils, and do a little gold-panning. The town has little else of note, but there is a food shop and a store selling First Nations art. 🕘 *1½–2 hr. Located 33km (21 miles) north of Horseshoe Bay.* ☎ *800/896-4044 or 604/896-2233. www.bcmm.ca. Adults C$21.50, seniors and students C$16, kids 6–12 C$13.50. Open daily 9am-4:30pm.*



The immense granite monolith that is the Stawamus Chief.

4 ★★ **Shannon Falls.** BC's third-highest waterfall cascades 335m (about 1,000 ft.) down a series of cliffs, looking like a whitewater river tilted on its side. An easy 350m (.25-mile) trail leads to the viewpoint. Popular among the tour bus crowd, the falls are nonetheless a sight to behold. 🕘 ***30 min. Located about 42km (26 miles) north of Horseshoe Bay. www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/shannon.***

5 ★★ **Stawamus Chief.** They say "the Chief" is the second-largest granite monolith in the world, which makes you expect something big but still manageable. Then you arrive in the town of Squamish, look up, and see its 700m (2,300-ft.) vertical cliff face completely blocking out the surrounding landscape. This monolith is a mountain. It's also a major destination for rock-climbers, and for hikers who want a super-steep hike to one of its three peaks. 🕘 ***5 min. to view, about 4 hr. to hike round-trip. Located about 44km (27 miles) north of Horseshoe Bay. www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/stawamus.***

6 **Squamish.** Halfway between Vancouver and Whistler, Squamish is something between a base camp for outdoor activities and a pit stop for road-trippers. Many outfitters have their operations here, and the town offers a smattering of restaurants and shops, with chain establishments clustered near the highway, and local joints lining the more interesting town center, just a few blocks west. If you're hungry, this is the best spot for a lunch break. 🕘 ***30 min. to see the town, longer to eat. Located about 46km (29 miles) north of Horseshoe Bay. www.tourismsquamish.com.***

Set near the end of Squamish's main drag, the 7 **Howe Sound Inn & Brewing Company** is a friendly, high-ceilinged brewpub/restaurant serving excellent homebrew and a big menu of sandwiches, pizza, pasta, mains, and more. Big windows and a patio look out on the Stawamus Chief. ***37801 Cleveland Ave., Squamish.*** ☎ ***604/892-2603. www.howesound.com. $.***

8 ★★ **Brackendale Bald Eagles.** A tiny town next door to Squamish, Brackendale is in this book for one reason: From November to February, it may well be the bald eagle capital of North America. Literally thousands of the regal raptors descend on the town to feast on salmon, sometimes clustering dozens to a tree. Best viewing is at Eagle Run, on the municipal dyke along Government Road. In the off season, check out the Brackendale Art Gallery for plenty of eagle-themed creations. 🕘 ***1 hr. Located about 7km (4 miles) north of Squamish. Gallery: 41950 Government Rd., Squamish.*** ☎ ***604/898-3333. www.brackendaleartgallery.com.***

9 ★ **Alice Lake.** Surrounded by mountains and grassy areas, pretty but often crowded Alice Lake is ideal for picnicking, swimming at its two sandy beaches, canoeing, and hiking, with 10 different trails winding back into the forest. 🕘 ***30 min. to 3***

Picturesque Garibaldi Provincial Park is a great place for outdoor recreation.

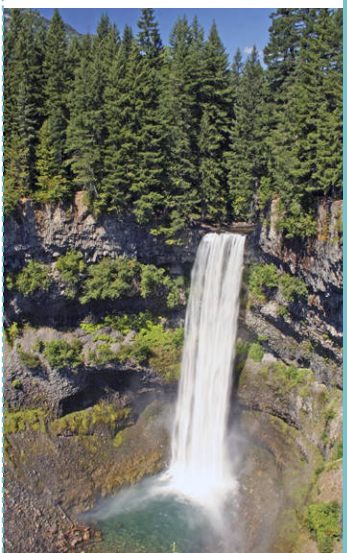
hr. Off Hwy. 99, 13km (8 miles) north of Squamish. www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/alice_lk.

10 ★★ Garibaldi Provincial Park. Covering about 1,950 sq. km (753 sq. miles), this enormous wilderness park stretches from Squamish to Whistler, just east of the Sea to Sky Highway. Hikers get 90km (59 miles) of hiking trails, but anyone with eyes can take in its snow-capped mountains (including 2,678m/8,786-ft. Mt. Garibaldi), clear lakes, and abundant wildlife. The area around Garibaldi Lake, midway between Squamish and Whistler, is the park's scenic heart. ***At least 2 hr. for hiking, though you could also spend a week. To access the Garibaldi Lake area, take the turnoff from Hwy. 99 just past the Rubble Creek Bridge, 37km (23 miles) north of Squamish, then drive the 2.5km (1½-mile) paved road to the Garibaldi Lake parking lot. www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/garibaldi.***

11 ★★ Brandywine Falls. While Shannon Falls 4 cascades down an angled mountain face, Brandywine shoots directly out from a cliff, falling 70m (230 ft.) into Daisy Lake at the bottom of a steep-walled canyon. It's like something out of an *Indiana Jones* movie. The main viewing area is a 10-minute walk from the parking lot, along a trail that crosses the Canadian National Rail line. If you're there at the right time, you can wave to the Whistler Mountaineer (p 176) as it chugs north. ***30–45 min. Located 10km (6 miles) south of Whistler off Hwy. 99. www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/explore/parkpgs/brandywine_falls.***

12 ★★★ Whistler Village. You're here. Go ski. Go mountain bike. Have fun. ***See chapter 11 for more complete information on Whistler.***

Brandywine Falls is both dramatic and easily accessible, making it a favorite of shutterbugs.



Victoria

1 The Fairmont Empress
2 The Legislative Assembly
3 Royal British Columbia Museum
4 Beacon Hill Park
5 Inner Harbour
6 Fisherman's Wharf
7 Old Town
8 Maritime Museum of British Columbia
9 Chinatown
10 Abkhazi Garden
11 Butchart Gardens
12 Craigdarroch Castle
Where to Stay
Abigail's Hotel 17
Inn at Laurel Point 13
Where to Dine
Blue Crab Bar & Grill 15
Spinnakers 13
Veneto Tapa Lounge 16
Victoria Harbour
Inner Harbour
Beacon Hill Park
Holland Point Park
MacDonald Park
Thunderbird Park
Ross Bay Cemetery
Ross Bay
Tyee Rd.
Esquimalt Rd.
Kmta Rd.
Herald St.
Fisgard St.
N Park St.
Balmoral Rd.
Pandora Ave.
Johnson St.
Yates St.
View St.
Fort St.
Broughton St.
Courtney St.
Burdett Ave.
Belleville St.
Quebec St.
Kingston St.
Superior St.
Michigan St.
Dallas Rd.
St. Lawrence St.
Montreal St.
Oswego St.
Menzies St.
Simcoe St.
Niagara St.
Toronto St.
Government St.
Wharf St.
Store St.
Douglas St.
Blanshard St.
Quadra St.
Cook St.
Vancouver St.
Fairfield Rd.
Humboldt St.
Richardson St.
McClure St.
Linden Ave.
Moss St.
Rockland Ave.
Joan Cr.
Gonzales Ave.
Despard Ave.
Warren Gdns.
Richmond Ave.
Foul Bay Rd.
Chandler Ave.
Carnsew St.
Cornwall St.
Fairfield Rd.
Southgate St.
Oscar St.
McKenzie St.
Oxford St.
Chapman St.
Park Blvd.
May St.
Faithful St.
Heywood Ave.
Thurlow Rd.
Arnold Ave.
Stannard Ave.
St. Charles St.
Earle St.
Fairfield Rd.
Lillian Rd.
Irving Rd.
Crescent Rd.
Wildwood Ave.
Robertson St.
Olive St.
Bushby St.
Dallas Rd.
0 1/2 mi
0 1/2 km

While shiny new Vancouver lacks almost any historic feel, Victoria, the provincial capital on nearby Vancouver Island, evokes 19th-century Britain but with a slightly better climate. Tour the well-maintained Old Town and the Inner Harbour, surrounded by century-old government buildings. Just outside town, a gorgeous formal garden adds to the Anglo allure, while the distant snowcapped mountains and whale-watching tours remind you that you really are in Pacific Canada after all. **START: Victoria is 183km (114 miles) southwest of Vancouver, across the Strait of Georgia on the tip of Vancouver Island (Note to the confused: Vancouver is actually not on Vancouver Island). See "Getting to Victoria" on p 139 for travel info. Because of the distance, this is no day trip: To really see the place, plan on spending at least a night.**

1 ★★★ The Fairmont Empress. Built in 1908, this ivy-covered Edwardian beauty was erected by the Canadian Pacific Railway as one of a string of grand railway hotels that crossed the continent. Together with the Legislative Building next door, it has become the very symbol of Victoria. The hotel embodies the feel of its era, from its Gothic dormers and steep slate roof to its ornate lobby, with potted palms, ornate woodwork, and overstuffed furniture. For visitors not staying the night, formal afternoon tea—with sundry tarts, cakes, and finger sandwiches—is the big draw. *30 min., more for tea. 721 Government St. ☎ 250/389-2727 for tea reservations. www.fairmont.com/empress. Tea served noon–3:45pm; priced from C$47–C$58 per person.*

2 ★★ The Legislative Assembly. Surrounded by wide lawns and fountains, the home of British Columbia's provincial legislature exudes the appropriate gravitas, all heavy stone and multiple copper domes. A regal statue of Queen Victoria (who ruled when the buildings were completed in 1898) stands at the head of the grounds, gazing out at the Inner Harbour, the lovely cove around which the whole city grew. Visitors can tour public areas on their own to see the beautiful marble, mosaic, and stained-glass details. There are also free guided tours that explain the legislative processes and the history, art, and architecture of the buildings. *30 min.–1 hr. 501 Belleville St. ☎ 250/387-3046. www.leg.bc.ca. Free admission. Buildings open daily 9am–5pm (mid-May to Sept), Mon–Fri 9am–5pm (Sept to mid-May). Tours depart several times per hour, but schedule may vary based on interest.*

3 ★★★ The Royal British Columbia Museum. This museum focuses on BC's land and

The Legislative Assembly, a neo-Baroque success designed by Francis Rattenbury in 1893.

people. Towering totem poles at the entrance and the First Peoples Gallery inside explore the art and culture of BC's aboriginal peoples; the Natural History Gallery looks at geology, plants, and animals from the province's 80-million-year history; and the Modern History gallery looks back at the last 200 years, with re-creations of early Victoria street scenes. There's also an IMAX movie theater. Adjacent to the museum is Thunderbird Park, a gorgeous spot displaying First Nations totem poles and a ceremonial house. 🕘 *2 hr. 675 Belleville St.* ☎ *250/356-7226. www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca. Adults C$14.30, seniors and kids 6–18 C$9.06. Open daily 10am–5pm.*

4 ★★ **Beach Hill Park.** Overlooked by many visitors, this 75-hectare (200-acre) park is among the treasures of Victoria. Originating right from downtown, walking paths wind through forests of native fir and arbutus, past ponds filled with geese and herons, and alongside manicured gardens. Trails converge on the dramatic summit of Beacon Hill, which offers views of the Juan de Fuca Strait and, on a clear day, the snowcapped Olympic Mountains

The Royal British Columbia Museum has an extensive exploration of the history of the province's First Nations people.

in Washington state. 🕘 *1–2 hr. Access the park along Douglas St., just 1 block south of the Royal British Columbia Museum. www.victoria.ca/cityhall/departments_compar_prkbcn.shtml.*

5 ★★★ **Inner Harbour.** Victoria is a city made for walking, and the prettiest promenade may well be the sea wall that traces the Inner Harbour. From downtown, head west along the sea wall for postcard-worthy views of the harbor, with the regal Empress Hotel towering behind. Farther on, benches in Laurel Point Park afford a great spot to watch floatplanes lift off and splash down and colorful ferries and sailboats zip by. 🕘 *45 min. Pick up the sea wall in front of the Empress Hotel. From Menzies to Pendray sts., detour onto Belleville St., as there is no pedestrian access here to the harbor.*

6 ★★ **Fisherman's Wharf.** Situated near the end of the sea wall, this wharf is home to not just fishing boats and yachts, but dozens of brightly colored, two-story houseboats. You're free to wander the docks and explore the floating neighborhood, where you might spy people cooking in their kitchens, neighbors chatting across the water, and dogs barking at the seals that hang around looking for handouts. There are also a few good fish-and-chip joints on the wharf, notably **Barb's** (☎ 250-834-6515; www.barbsplace.ca; just look for the sign with the fish eating a french fry). 🕘 *45 min., with time for a snack. Enter from St. Lawrence St. or Dallas Rd. www.fishermanswharf victoria.com.*

7 ★★ **Old Town.** Victoria's Old Town grew up around the original Fort Victoria fur trading post constructed during the 19th century by the Hudson's Bay Company, and it's been the city's commercial and

Getting to Victoria

Despite its relative proximity to Vancouver (about 110km/68 miles as the crow flies), the island capital of Victoria is not easy to get to. The BC Ferry to Victoria (☎ 888/223-3779; www.bcferries.com) leaves from the terminal of Tsawwassen, about a 45-minute ride from downtown Vancouver. The crossing itself (C$15 one-way per person, add an extra C$50 for a vehicle) takes 90 minutes and drops you at Swartz Bay on Vancouver Island. From there, it's another 20-minute ride into Victoria. If you don't have a car, among the easiest ways to make this journey is with **Pacific Coach Lines** (☎ 604/662-8074; www.pacificcoach.com). Between 7:30am and 5:30pm daily (later in summer), buses transport passengers from downtown Vancouver hotels to the ferry. After the crossing, you hop aboard another bus for the drive into Victoria. The whole trip takes about 4 hours one-way and costs around C$90 round-trip, including the ferry fare. Short on time? Consider taking a floatplane. **Harbour Air** (☎ 800/665-0212; www.harbour-air.com) leaves from downtown Vancouver and will get you to Victoria in 35 minutes for as little as C$110 one-way.

tourist focal point ever since. Its streets are filled with heritage buildings that once functioned as warehouses, factories, gambling dens, and chandleries, but that now house shops and restaurants. Government Street, running north-south through its center, is tourist central, lined with cheap souvenir shops. 🕘 ***1 hr., with time for shopping. Old Town extends from Fort St. north to Pandora Ave. and from Wharf St. east to Douglas St. The city's downtown area encircles Old Town.***

8 ★ **Maritime Museum of British Columbia.** In the old Provincial Courthouse on Bastion Square, this museum offers two floors of exhibits on early exploration, whaling, shipbuilding, piracy, and other aspects of Victoria's seafaring past. The building's third floor holds the old courtroom, which served as both the Supreme Court of BC and the Vice-Admiralty Court for maritime litigation. 🕘 ***45 min. 28 Bastion Sq. ☎ 250/385-4222. www.mmbc.bc.ca. Adults C$12, seniors and students C$10, kids 6–12 C$5. Open daily 10am–5pm.***

9 ★ **Chinatown.** North America's second-oldest Chinese community was established in 1858. Its 12m (38-ft.) "Gate of Harmonious Interest" features hand-carved stone lions from Suzhou, China. Nearby, Fan Tan Alley is promoted as "the world's narrowest street," a former warren of opium, gambling, and prostitution houses that now sticks primarily to the souvenir trade. You can enter the Chinatown Trading Company through its back-alley door, which lets on to a mazelike space of interconnected shops and museum displays on Chinatown's past. 🕘 ***1 hr. Chinatown is centered on Fisgard St. btw. Store & Douglas sts. The Gate of Harmonious Interest stands at the corner of Government & Fisgard sts. Chinatown Trading Co. is at 551 Fisgard St.***

10 ★★ Abkhazi Garden. Talk about a labor of love. In the 1920s, the young Peggy Pemberton-Carter first met exiled Prince Nicholas Abkhazi of Georgia and began a correspondence that would last 2 decades. Following World War II, during which both were interned in prisoner of war camps, the two reunited, decided to marry, and moved to Victoria. The .4-hectare (1-acre) jewelbox garden they created there was their passion for the next 40 years. Highlights include a rhododendron garden, a tiny summerhouse looking out to a small pond, and the "Yangtse River," a band of green lawn winding the length of the property. 🕘 *1 hr. 1964 Fairfield Rd. (near Foul Bay Rd.), Oak Bay.* ☎ *250/598-8096. www.abkhazi.com. Adults C$10, seniors and students C$7.50, free for kids 12 and under. Open daily 11am–5pm.*

11 ★★★ Butchart Gardens. Some 23km (14 miles) north of downtown Victoria on the Saanich Peninsula, the Butchart Gardens started life as a limestone quarry around 1905. Once owner Robert Butchart had exhausted the mine, his wife Jennie transformed it into a sumptuous Sunken Garden, with limestone mounds that allow a 360-degree view. Other gardens and attractions were added over the years. Today, the 22-hectare (54-acre) gardens are comprised of some 1 million plants representing 700 varieties, serviced by 50 full-time gardeners, and visited by nearly a million people every year. 🕘 *2–3 hr. 800 Benevenuto Ave., Brentwood Bay.* ☎ *866/652-4422 or 250/652-4422. www.butchartgardens.com. Summer: Adults C$30, kids 13–17 C$15, kids 5–12 C$3. Other times: Adults C$16–C$24, kids 13–17 C$8–C$14, kids 5–12 C$2–C$3. Open daily with variable hours: 9am–sundown mid-June to Sept; 9am–9pm Dec; 9am–3:30, 4, or 5pm rest of year.*

The world-renowned Butchart Gardens are spectacular year-round.

An antiques-furnished sitting room inside Craigdarroch Castle.

12 ★ Craigdarroch Castle. Built in the 1880s as the home of millionaire Scottish coal magnate Robert Dunsmuir, this Highlands-style castle is four stories high, 39 rooms strong, topped with stone turrets, and furnished in opulent Victorian splendor: Persian rugs, stained-glass windows, fine woodwork, and paintings and sculpture throughout. 🕘 *1 hr. 1050 Joan Crescent, off Fort St.* ☎ *250/592-5323. www.thecastle.ca. Adults C$13.75, seniors C$12.75, students C$8.75, kids 6–12 C$5. Open daily 10am–4:30pm Sept to mid-June; 9am–7pm mid-June through Labour Day. You can walk from the Inner Harbor via Fort St. in 30–40 min. or take a taxi.*

Where to Stay & Eat

★★★ **Abigail's Hotel** INNER HARBOUR Occupying a 1930s Tudor mansion on a downtown residential street, quaint Abigail's conjures the history and intimacy of Victoria in a way the bigger hotels can't. Expect friendly service, unique B&B-style rooms, free breakfast, and free hors d'oeuvres at cocktail hour. ***906 McClure St. ☎ 800/561-6565 or 250/388-5363. www.abigailshotel.com. 23 units. Doubles C$179–C$289. AE, MC, V. Map p 136.***

★ **Blue Crab Bar & Grill** INNER HARBOUR *SEAFOOD* One of the city's best seafood restaurants, offering innovative recipes, an excellent wine list, and beautiful Inner Harbour views. Its ingredients are often organic, and its seafood is harvested using sustainable practices. ***At the Coast Victoria Harbourside Hotel, 146 Kingston St. ☎ 250/480-1999. www.bluecrab.ca. Entrees C$25–C$36. AE, DC, MC, V. Breakfast, lunch & dinner daily. Map p 136.***

★★★ **Fairmont Empress** INNER HARBOUR Victoria's most historic hotel (p 137) offers a classic experience, though standard rooms are smaller than you can get elsewhere. Only deluxe harbor-view rooms and suites face the Inner Harbour. ***721 Government St. ☎ 866/540-4429 or 250/384-8111. www.fairmont.com/empress. 477 units. Doubles C$299–C$450. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Map p 136.***

★★★ **Inn at Laurel Point** INNER HARBOUR More stylish resort than "inn," Laurel Point offers a contemporary minimalist decor, a pond and Japanese garden (complementing the Asian artwork inside), and a promontory setting right on the Inner Harbour. Get a room in the newer south wing designed by Vancouver architect Arthur Erickson (p 13). ***680 Montreal St. ☎ 800/663-7667 or 250/386-8721. www.laurelpoint.com. 200 units. Doubles C$194–C$224. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Map p 136.***

★★★ **Spinnakers** INNER HARBOUR *BREWPUB/REGIONAL* A local landmark that should not be missed, Spinnakers is considered Canada's oldest brewpub and is also a pioneer of the eat-local movement. Housed in a grand lodge overlooking the harbor, the restaurant serves inventive pub fare: pizzas, pasta, salad, seafood, and burgers prepared with a deft touch using hyper-local ingredients

The Fairmont Empress Hotel is the most prestigious place to stay in Victoria.

from the island. They serve some of the best craft beer in the province, too. ***308 Catherine St. ☎ 250/386-2739. www.spinnakers.com. Entrees C$12–C$26. AE, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Map p 136.***

★★★ Veneto Tapa Lounge
DOWNTOWN *REGIONAL/TAPAS*
Located in the just-restored 1912 Hotel Rialto, Veneto is an unexpected dose of contemporary urban sophistication in Victoria's largely Victorian downtown. Enjoy fresh regional cuisine infused with Asian influences in a loungelike atmosphere with high ceilings and leather banquettes. Entrees consist of three unique little dishes, all using the same main ingredient (beef, chicken, crab, and so forth). ***1450 Douglas St. ☎ 250/383-7310. www.venetodining.com. Entrees C$16–C$20. AE, MC, V. Dinner daily. Map p 136.***

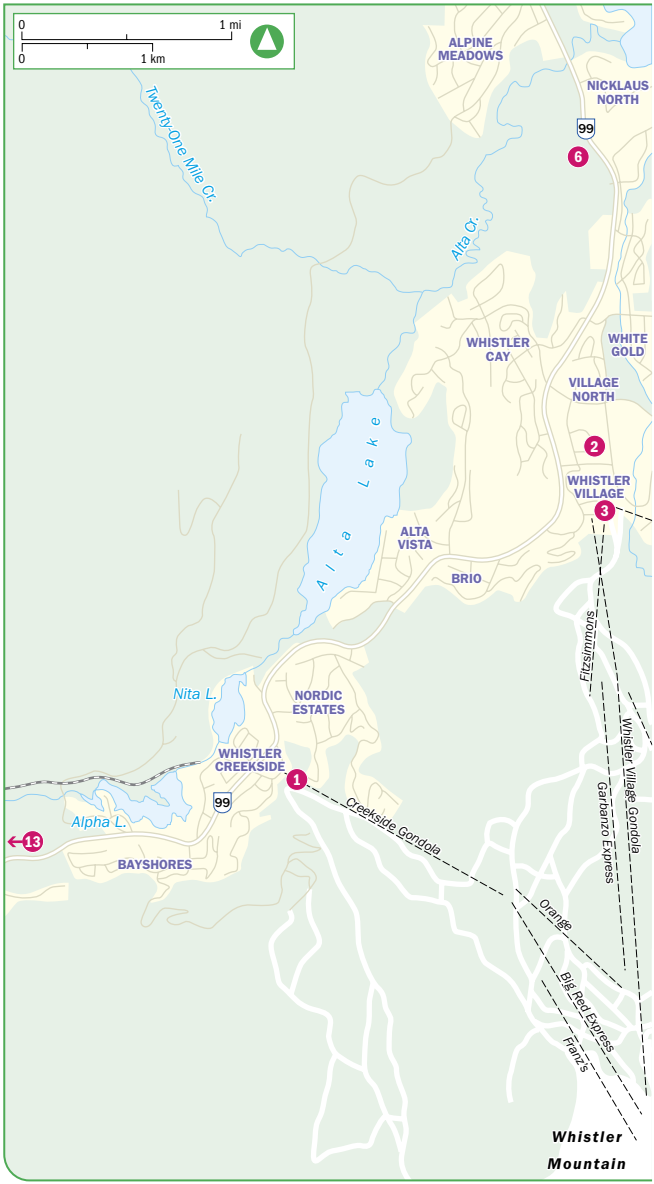
Victoria Whale-Watching

The waters around Victoria are known for their spectacular whale-watching, with boats plying Juan de Fuca Strait, Haro Strait, and the Strait of Georgia in search of the semiresident Orca (killer whales) and migratory gray, humpback, and minke whales. Orca are common from April through October, but summer months are best. Humpbacks are commonly sighted between August and October, and grays swim off Vancouver Island from March to mid-May, during their northward migration. Dozens of boats depart hourly from the harbor, some of them (such as **Orca Spirit Adventures,** ☎ 888/672-6722 or 250/383-8411; www.orcaspirit.com) offering large leisure craft and others (such as **Prince of Whales,** ☎ 888/383-4884 or 250/383-4884; www.princeofwhales.com) specializing in fast, inflatable Zodiac boats. Whichever you choose, be sure your outfitter bills itself as a "Responsible Whale Watcher," following practices that minimize disturbing the whales. Three-hour tours cost about C$95 for adults, C$59 to C$69 for kids.

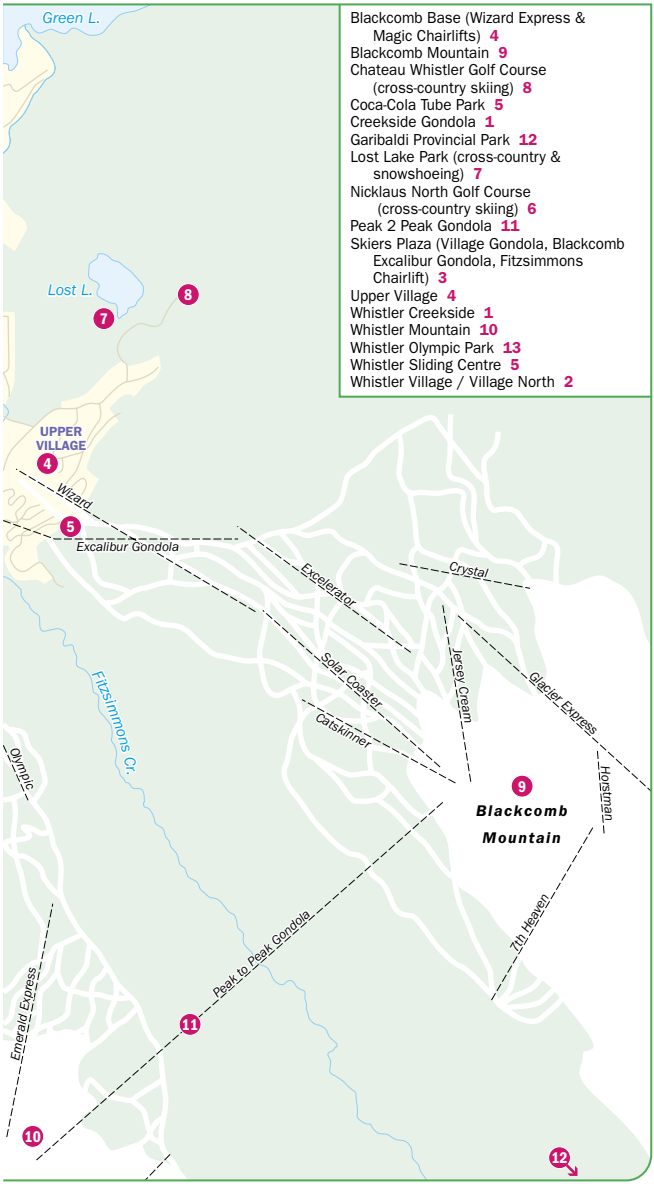
Fast Zodiac boats are a favorite way to seek out whales.

11 Whistler

Best of Whistler **in Winter**



Previous page: Whistler is a great place to learn to ski.


Blackcomb Base (Wizard Express & Magic Chairlifts) 4
Blackcomb Mountain 9
Chateau Whistler Golf Course (cross-country skiing) 8
Coca-Cola Tube Park 5
Creekside Gondola 1
Garibaldi Provincial Park 12
Lost Lake Park (cross-country & snowshoeing) 7
Nicklaus North Golf Course (cross-country skiing) 6
Peak 2 Peak Gondola 11
Skiers Plaza (Village Gondola, Blackcomb Excalibur Gondola, Fitzsimmons Chairlift) 3
Upper Village 4
Whistler Creekside 1
Whistler Mountain 10
Whistler Olympic Park 13
Whistler Sliding Centre 5
Whistler Village / Village North 2
Green L.
Lost L.
UPPER VILLAGE
Wizard
Excalibur Gondola
Excelerator
Crystal
Solar Coaster
Jersey Cream
Glacier Express
Catskinner
Fitzsimmons Cr.
Olympic
Blackcomb Mountain
Horstman
7th Heaven
Peak to Peak Gondola
Emerald Express

Recipe for a great ski resort: Take two mountains with more than 1,500m (4,921 ft.) and 3,307 hectares (8,171 acres) of skiable terrain, the largest spread in North America. Add enough annual snowfall to bury a house, carve out more than about 200 individual trails, then add 38 lifts, great backcountry and cross-country skiing, and a killer mountain village with world-class après-ski potential. For the adrenaline junkie on skis, Whistler is it: The biggest, the highest, the best. **START: You can drive to Whistler along the Sea to Sky Highway (p 132) or take the bus or the Whistler Mountaineer train from Vancouver (p 176).**

Skiing & Snowboarding

★★★ **Downhill Skiing/ Snowboarding.** Whistler exists because of skiing. In 1960, a group of Vancouver businessmen began laying the groundwork for an alpine ski area on what was then called London Mountain (later Whistler, renamed for a local alpine marmot that makes a whistling sound). It opened in 1966, and skiing in North America has never been the same. Today, the resort encompasses two mountains, each with more than 100 trails (the longest of which stretch some 11km/7 miles). Their high alpine skiing is unmatched in North America, with 17 massive alpine bowls, steep chutes, and four glaciers offering days' worth of opportunities for skiers and snowboarders. Originally two different resorts, Whistler and Blackcomb (the latter usually considered the more extreme mountain) merged in 1997, so one lift ticket covers everything. Primary access to Whistler is via the lifts and gondolas at Skiers Plaza in Whistler Village (plus the Creekside Gondola at Whistler Creekside). Blackcomb is primarily accessed from the Upper Village. See "Walkable Whistler" (below) for more info on the resort's layout. Individual and small-group ski and snowboard instruction is available on both mountains for every age and skill level. 🕘 *During ski season, the average stay in Whistler is 6 days, though 1- to 20-day lift tickets are available. Whistler Blackcomb ☎ 888/403-4727. www.whistlerblackcomb.com. 2-day lift tickets cost C$138–C$182 adults, C$119–C$155 seniors and teens, C$71–C$94 kids 7–12. Daylong beginner ski or snowboard lessons from C$83 (or a heavily discounted C$97 with lift included). Private lessons from C$379 for 3 hr. The season runs roughly from late Nov through May. Lessons available Dec–Apr.*

An extensive lift system makes it easy to get from Whistler Village to the slopes.

★★★ **The Peak 2 Peak Gondola.** Newly opened at the end of 2008, the Peak 2 Peak stretches horizontally between Whistler and Blackcomb mountains at a high elevation (436m/1,427ft.

above the valley floor), allowing skiers and snowboarders—as well as sightseers—to shuttle quickly from one mountain to the other, following the best alpine snow and weather conditions. The gondola system itself is 4.4km (2¾ miles) long, with an unsupported span of 3km (2 miles)—the longest in the world. *11 min., end to end. Cabins depart every 49 sec. Whistler Blackcomb. 888/403-4727. www.whistlerblackcomb.com. Access to the gondola is included in regular lift ticket prices.*

The Peak 2 Peak Gondola has the longest unsupported span in the world.

★★★ **Backcountry Skiing/ Snowboarding.** Beyond the lift lines, various guided small-group tours bring skiers and snowboarders into the pristine bowls, glaciers, gladed runs, and oodles of powder surrounding Whistler Blackcomb, mostly within enormous Garibaldi Provincial Park (p 135, 10). These tours are geared toward intermediate and advanced skiers, but no specific backcountry experience is needed. Single-day tours include lift access and specialized ski and safety equipment. Groups can expect from three to five runs and up to a whopping 5,000 feet of vertical descent. *Tours and backcountry clinics are available through Coast Mountain*

Walkable Whistler

The Whistler Blackcomb resort is laid out as a large but easily navigable pedestrian village. **Whistler Village** is the main hub of restaurants, bars, shops, and hotels, all built in an epic chalet style whose scale seems to rival the massive mountain backdrop. The Village Stroll is the main walking avenue, winding through the busy, sometimes raucous Village center and into **Village North,** a slightly quieter zone, with a grocery and fast-food outlets at its far northern end, as well as the new Whistler Olympic Plaza (p 159). The gondolas up onto Whistler (and one to Blackcomb) board at Skiers Plaza at the southernmost end of Whistler Village.

The **Upper Village,** located a few minutes' walk east of the Village/Village North, just across Fitzsimmons Creek, is the base for the Blackcomb chairlifts, and offers a much quieter, generally more upscale vibe than either the main or north village.

Whistler Creekside, about 5km (3 miles) southwest of Whistler Village on the Sea to Sky Highway, was the area's original resort development. Today, it offers gondola access to Whistler Mountain for people (including many families) who want a calmer vacation experience.

A variety of excellent ice faces makes Whistler a prime destination for ice climbers.

Guides. ☎ 604/932 1458. www.coastmountainguides.com. Also through the Whistler Alpine Guides Bureau. 4314 Main St. ☎ 604/938 9242. www.whistlerguides.com. 1-day tours start at around C$215. Offered daily in season.

★★ **Cross-Country Skiing.** It used to be that Whistler's cross-country options didn't hold a candle to its downhill skiing. But the opening of the Whistler Olympic Park for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games added 90km (56 miles) of public Nordic skiing trails, from beginner to expert caliber. These complement an older network of 28km (17 miles) of groomed, track-set cross-country trails spread among scenic Lost Lake Park, the Château Whistler Golf Course (full of hilly terrain), and the flatter Nicklaus North Golf Course. ***Whistler Olympic Park is located 16km (10 miles) southwest of the Village in the nearby Callaghan Valley, 5 Callaghan Valley Rd. ☎ 604/964-0060. www.whistlerolympicpark.com. Lost Lake Park is a short walk from anywhere in the Village. Information, tours, and lessons are available through Cross Country Connection, 7400 Fitzsimmons Rd. S. ☎ 604/905-0071. www.cross countryconnection.bc.ca. Day passes for either location C$20 adults, C$12 teens, C$10 kids 6–12. The season normally lasts Nov–Mar.***

Adventure Sports

★ **Ice Climbing.** The Whistler area offers great ice faces suitable for every level of climber, from absolute beginner to expert. You can hire a guide for an ice-climbing tour that visits various areas between Whistler and Lillooet and is customized to your skill level. ***Whistler Alpine Guides Bureau, 4314 Main St. ☎ 604/938-9242. www.whistlerguides.com. 2-day Intro to Ice Clinic C$395 per person.***

Other Winter Whistler Tours & Activities

In addition to the options described in this section, Whistler and its various independent tour operators offer many other winter tours and activities, including **horse-drawn sleigh rides** to various locations around Whistler; **snowmobile tours** on Whistler and Blackcomb Mountains; **heli-skiing/boarding tours** in the backcountry; **snowcat sightseeing tours;** and **backcountry wildlife tours.** All are bookable through Whistler Blackcomb, either by phone at ☎ 888/403-4727, or online at www.whistlerblackcomb.com.

Tubing

★★ kids Coca-Cola Tube Park. There's something very Adam Sandler about this attraction, and I mean that in a good way. Located in the Base 2 Zone on Blackcomb (above the Upper Village), the tube park has eight individual lanes (rated by difficulty) that give both kids and adults the chance to ride inner tubes down the mountain, giggling like idiots. Lanes are about 305m (1,001 ft.) long, and there's a lift to get you and your tube to the top. *Tickets are sold in 1- and 2-hr. increments. Primary access to the tube park is via the Excalibur Gondola, from Skiers Plaza in Whistler Village. ☎ 888/403-4727. www.whistlerblackcomb.com. 1-hr. tickets C$16 adults, C$12 seniors and teens, C$10 kids. Open Dec–Apr noon–6pm daily.*

Miscellaneous Winter Activities

★ Snowshoeing. Just outside Whistler Village, three trails totaling 11km (7 miles) traverse Lost Lake Park, all passing through a landscape of forest, frozen lakes, and magnificent view-points. An additional 15km (9 miles) of trails can be found in Whistler Olympic Park, located a 16km (10-mile) drive southwest of the Village in the Callaghan Valley. *Equipment rentals and guided or self-guided tours of Lost Lake are available from Cross Country Connection, 7400 Fitzsimmons Rd. S. ☎ 604/905-0071. www.crosscountryconnection.bc.ca. Self-guided 2-hr. tour (including equipment and trail pass) C$28.50 adults, C$21.10 teens, C$16.25 kids. At Whistler Olympic Park (5 Callaghan Valley Rd. ☎ 604/964-0060. www.whistlerolympicpark.com), a snow-shoeing day pass is C$10 adults, C$7 teens, C$6 kids.*

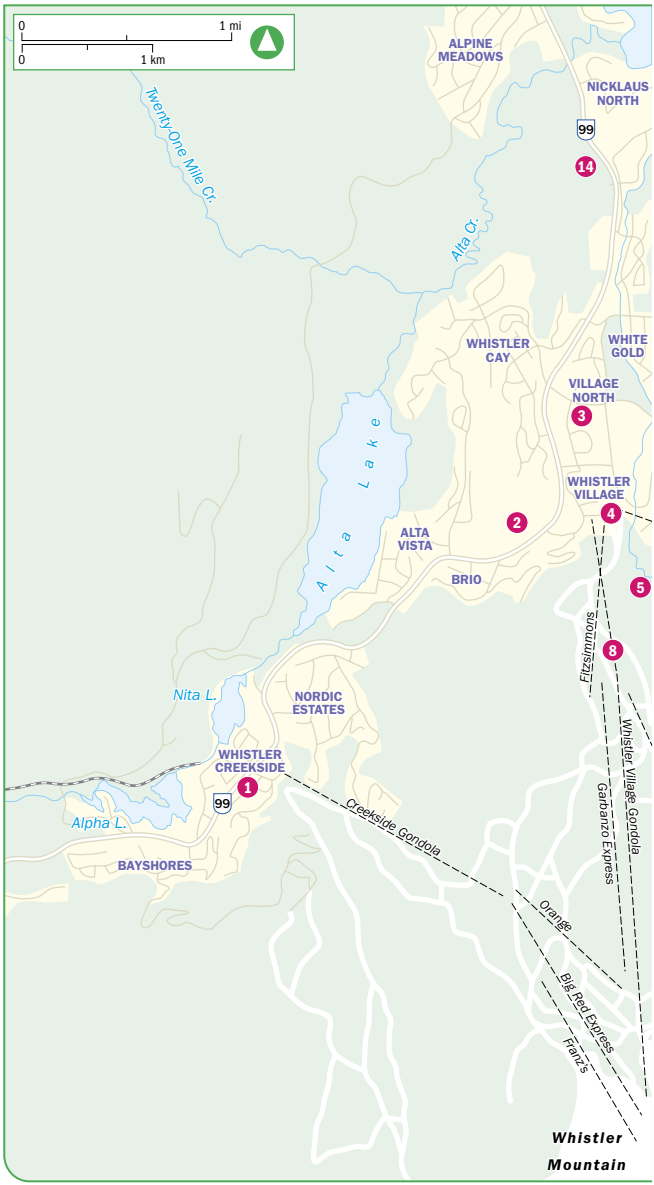
Lost Lake Park is a favorite with snowshoers thanks to its many trails.

Snowshoes can be rented daily for C$20 adults, C$16 teens, C$12 children.

★★ Whistler Sliding Centre. The course that hosted the 2010 Olympic Winter Games luge, skeleton, and bobsleigh events now offers the public a chance to try out their sliding skills. Participants are strapped headfirst into a skeleton sled and then launched down the lower third of the track, reaching speeds of 100kmph (60 mph) as they rocket through six icy turns. *2 hr. Bookings through Whistler Sliding Centre, 4910 Glacier Lane ☎ 604/964-0040. www.whistlersidingcentre.com. 2 rides down the track for C$130.*

The public can now try out modified routes from the 2010 Olympic Winter Games at the Whistler Sliding Centre.

Best of Whistler **in Summer**



Big Sky Golf and Country Club 15
Blackcomb Base Adventure Zone 7
Blackcomb Mountain 10
Boneyard Slopestyle Park 5
Chateau Whistler Golf Course 13
Garibaldi Provincial Park 11
Horstman Glacier (on Blackcomb) 10
Lost Lake Trail (Village access point) 12
Nicklaus North Golf Course 14
Peak 2 Peak Gondola 6
Skiers Plaza (Village Gondola, Fitzsimmons Chairlift) 4
Upper Village 7
Whistler Creekside 1
Whistler Golf Club 2
Whistler Mountain 9
Whistler Mountain Bike Park 8
Whistler Village / Village North 3
Green L.
Lost L.
UPPER VILLAGE
Wizard
Excalibur Gondola
Excelerator
Crystal
Solar Coaster
Jersey Cream
Glacier Express
Catskinner
Fitzsimmons Cr.
Olympic
Horstman
Blackcomb Mountain
7th Heaven
Peak to Peak Gondola
Emerald Express

In summer, Whistler assumes a different character. Mountain bikers take over trails and runs that were covered in snow just weeks before. Golf courses grow lush in the warm air, and restaurant patios serve international cuisine with a side of Canadian mountain sunshine. And you can even do a little skiing—as long as you're willing to go high enough. In fact, 52 percent of Whistler's 2.1 million annual visitors now come during the summer months.

Mountain Biking

★★★ Whistler Mountain Bike Park. This is widely considered the world's finest mountain bike park, with 45 trails covering about 200km (125 miles) and offering a maximum vertical descent of 1,507m (4,946 ft.). Riders head up the mountain from Skiers Plaza in Whistler Village via the Fitzsimmons Chairlift and the Village Gondola, ascending to the Olympic Station area at 1,019m (3,343 ft.). From there, you can choose to ride down the trails of the lower park (aka, the Fitzsimmons Zone) or keep going on the Garbanzo Chair to ride the upper and more difficult Garbanzo Zone, which tops out at 1,835m (6,069 ft.). Toward the bottom of the Fitzsimmons Zone, in plain sight of Skiers Plaza, the Boneyard Slopestyle Park was designed by professional mountain biker John Cowan, and is loaded with wooden ramp jumps, man-made dirt jumps, and drops for high-intermediate and advanced riders. 🕘 ***Lift tickets are sold in 1-, 2-, and 3-day packages.*** ☎ ***866/218-9690 or 604/967-8950. www.whistlerbike.com. 1-day lift tickets are C$55 adults, C$49 teens, and C$30 kids 10–12. Heavy-duty bike rentals are available from the park itself or from dozens of other operators for about C$70 half-day, C$100 full day. The season runs from mid-May to mid-Oct.***

★★ Whistler Valley Bike Trails. Outside of the designated bike park, Whistler has an enormous and growing network of more than 315km (196 miles) of single-track, double-track, and paved trails. Built over the years, in many instances by locals with a real passion for riding, these cross-country trails wind

Whistler Mountain Bike Park is arguably the world's finest.

Other Warm-Weather Whistler Tours & Activities

In addition to all of the activities described in this section, Whistler and its independent tour operators offer many other summer activities, including **river-rafting tours** on the nearby Green, Birkenhead, and Elaho-Squamish rivers; guided **horseback trail riding; bear viewing tours** that combine 4x4 excursions with short walks to area habitats; **ziplining** through Whistler's forests (p 157); and **ATV and Hummer tours** to the peak of Whistler Mountain, among others. **River-rafting tours** can be booked through Tourism Whistler by calling ☎ 800/944-7853 or online at www.whistler.com. Other tours are bookable through Whistler Blackcomb by calling ☎ 888/403-4727 or online at www.whistlerblackcomb.com.

through old growth forest, along riversides, and up mountains. The signature ride in the Valley is known as Comfortably Numb, a 26km (16-mile) run that traverses more than 1,000 vertical meters (3,281 ft.) of highly varied terrain. *A decent resource on Valley trails, with maps and reviews of trails new and old is www.whistler.com/bike_guide.*

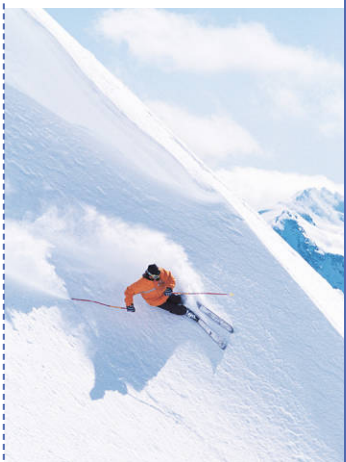
Skiing

★★★ **Summer Glacier Skiing/Snowboarding.** In summer, when the bikers have taken over Whistler Mountain, the high Horstman Glacier on Blackcomb still provides skiing and riding opportunities. In addition to day skiing/riding, there's also a variety of multiday ski camps on the glacier, where you can work on specific skills with world-class athletes. *Whistler Blackcomb. ☎ 888/403-4727 or 604/967-8950. www.whistlerblackcomb.com. 1-day glacier ski tickets C$56 adults, C$49 seniors and teens, C$29 kids 7–12. Camp charges vary by program. Season mid-June to mid-July.*

Golf

★★★ **Big Sky Golf and Country Club.** Thirty minutes north of Whistler, this 7,001-yard, par-72 course was designed by Robert Cupp in the shadow of Mt. Currie, with great views and a subtle layout, an executive 9-hole course, plus one of the top golf academies in Canada. *1690 Airport Rd., Pemberton. Tee times can be booked*

You'll find good slope conditions in Whistler even in summer, thanks to the Horstman Glacier.



The Chateau Whistler Golf Club takes advantage of its scenic location.

through Whistler Blackcomb. ☎ 888/403-4727. www.whistlerblackcomb.com. Daily greens fees (excluding late-afternoon and twilight play) C$88–C$145, depending on the season.

★★★ **Chateau Whistler Golf Club.** Set at the base of Blackcomb Mountain on the northern edge of the Upper Village, the club offers a 6,635-yard, par-72 course with over 122m (400 ft.) in elevation change. Designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr., it takes full advantage of its dramatic mountain setting. *Tee times can be booked through Whistler Blackcomb. ☎ 888/403-4727. www.whistlerblackcomb.com. Daily greens fees (excluding late-afternoon and twilight play) C$99–C$159, depending on the season.*

★★★ **Nicklaus North.** Five minutes north of Whistler, this 6,908-yard, par-71 course was designed by the legendary Jack Nicklaus among mountain peaks, glacier-fed lakes, and forests. *8080 Nicklaus North Blvd., off the Sea-to-Sky Hwy. Tee times can be booked through Whistler Blackcomb. ☎ 888/403-4727. www.whistlerblackcomb.com. Daily greens fees (excluding late-afternoon and twilight play) C$99–C$149, depending on the season.*

Whistler Golf Club. On the western edge of Whistler Village, this 6,676-yard, par-72 course was the first in Canada designed by Arnold Palmer, who melded the area's natural contours with man-made lakes and a redirected creek to create a challenging, enjoyable course. Keep an eye out for the black bears that meander across the fairways. *Tee times can be booked through Whistler Blackcomb. ☎ 888/403-4727. www.whistlerblackcomb.com. Daily greens fees (excluding late-afternoon and twilight play) C$109–C$129, depending on the season.*

Hiking

★★★ **Hiking.** The Whistler area offers dozens of hiking options, from easy trails that start from the Village to mountaintop trails reachable by gondola. Close in, the

30km (19-mile) **Lost Lake Trail** starts at the day skier parking lots between the Village and Upper Village, winding through beautiful country. The **Valley Trail System** is an easy, paved trail that connects many parts of Whistler. High up on Whistler and Blackcomb mountains, accessible via the Peak 2 Peak Alpine Experience gondola ride (p 146), are 18 different trails stretching more than 50km (31 miles). Options range from easy loops like the .6km (.3-mile) Paleface Trail, which offers views, Alpine flowers, and old-growth forest, to the 21km (13-mile) Musical Bumps and Singing Pass trails, which start at Whistler peak and wind down through Garibaldi Provincial Park, ending back at the village 4 to 7 hours later. There are also free 2-hour round-trip hiking tours that depart daily at 11:30am from the top of the Whistler Village Gondola. By riding the Peak 2 Peak gondola (p 146), hikers can also access trails on Blackcomb.

Whistler Blackcomb. ☎ 888/403-4727. www.whistlerblackcomb.com. 1-day passes on the Peak 2 Peak gondola C$45 adults, C$38 teens, C$21 kids 7–12. Gondolas accommodate hikers June–Sept.

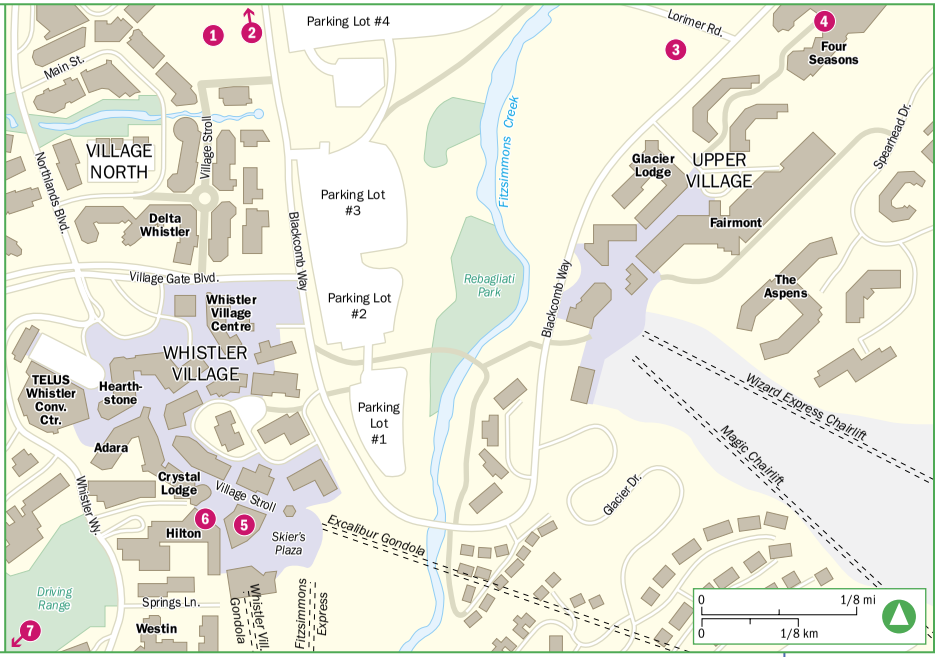
Fun for Kids

★ kids **Blackcomb Base Adventure Zone.** A sort of mini-Whistler for kids, the Adventure Zone offers more than 10 different "adventures" that range from an 80m (250-ft.) zipline to bungee trampolines that help you jump up to 8m (25 ft.) in the air. Other activities include miniature golf, NASA-style human gyroscopes, and an 8m (25-ft.) web that kids can crawl around on like Spiderman. *In the Upper Village, at the base of Blackcomb Mountain. Each activity averages around C$10. 5-, 10-, and 15-adventure passes are also available, for C$40, C$78, and C$106 respectively (all ages). The Zone's season runs mid-June to early Sept.*

There are dozens of picturesque hiking trail options in Whistler.

Best of All-Weather Whistler

- Ashram Spa **7**
- Scandinave Spa **2**
- Spa at Four Seasons Resort **4**
- Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre **3**
- Whistler Olympic Plaza **1**
- WildPlay Elements Parks office **6**
- Ziptrek Ecotours office **5**



Though Whistler does a complete seasonal chameleon routine between summer and winter, some things never change. In addition to the cultural, adventure, and sybaritic options below, you can also ride the Peak 2 Peak gondola (p 146) between the mountains year-round, or hike the paved, 35km (22-mile) Valley Trail (p 155), which winds between the Village and surrounding lakes, parks, and residential communities.

Adventure Sports

★★ Ziptrek Ecotours. Ziplining—in which you're strapped into a harness and sent gliding along a wire from platform to platform, far above the ground—is big news at resorts today. Ziptrek Ecotours, one of the longest tree-to-tree versions in the world, is located in the valley between Whistler and Blackcomb mountains. You can zip along one of two different five-line courses (including one with a 20-story vertical drop) or opt for the tamer canopy adventure—a walk through the treetops on a network of suspension bridges. 🕘 *Tours last about 3 hr. Guest services desk is located in the Carleton Lodge, across from the Whistler Village Gondolas. A shuttle takes you to the zipline base.* ☎ *866/935-0001 or 604/935-0001. www.ziptrek.com. Tours C$99–C$119 adults, C$79 seniors and kids 6–14. Canopy walk C$39 adults, C$29 seniors and kids 6–14. Tours available multiple times daily, year-round.*

★★ WildPlay Elements Parks. The new ziplining game in town, WildPlay allows two guests to ride side-by-side, each on his or her own cable. Excursions integrate ziplines, trails, and boardwalks, and riders achieve speeds up to 100kmph (60 mph). Alternately, you can harness up and try the Monkido obstacle course, a series of tightropes, plank bridges, and cargo ropes suspended up to 18m (60 ft.) in the air. 🕘 *Tours last about 3 hr. Guest services desks are located inside the Adventure Group, which is across from the Whistler Village Gondolas, and in the Fairmont Chateau Whistler hotel. A shuttle takes you to the zipline base, about 10 min. north of Whistler.* ☎ *604/932-0647. www.wildplay.com. Zipline C$100 ages 7 and up. Monkido course C$50 adults, C$30 kids 7–13. Available multiple times daily, year-round.*

Whistler has one of the longest tree-to-tree ziplines in the world.

Museums

★★ Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre. One of Whistler's few museums, this center showcases BC's neighboring Squamish and Lil'wat First Nations peoples through exhibitions of carvings, canoes, and other artifacts, as well as hourly live performances of music and dance, and demonstrations of traditional crafts. Inside the beautiful three-story, Douglas-fir-and-glass building

is a cafe serving traditional Aboriginal cuisine, including bannock bread, smoked salmon, and venison stew. *1–2 hr. 4584 Blackcomb Way. 866/441-7522. www.slcc.ca. Admission C$18 adults, C$14 seniors, C$11 teens, C$8 kids 6–12. Open 9:30am–5pm daily during summer, 10am–5pm Tues–Sun during winter.*

Day Spas

★★★ **Ashram Spa.** Located in the Nita Lake Lodge (p 176), this new spa specializes in ayurvedic body therapies. In rooms furnished with Indian relics and carvings (including hardwood massage tables), guests enjoy warm oil massages, herbal wraps, and treatments to soothe, exfoliate, and rejuvenate. *2131 Lake Placid Rd. (opposite the entrance to Whistler Creekside). 888/755-6482. www.nitalakelodge.com. Most treatments C$120–C$185. AE, MC, V. Open daily 10am–7pm.*

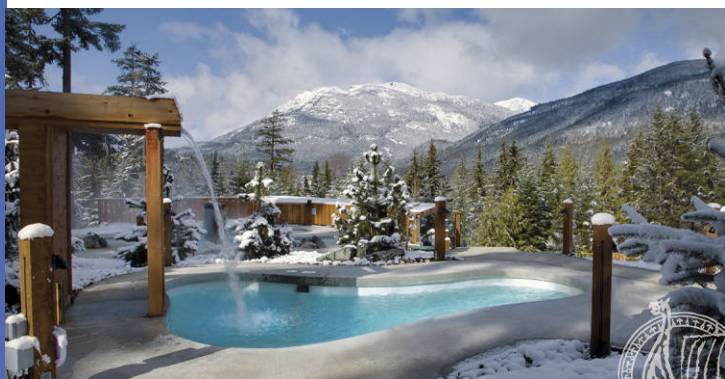
★★★ **Scandinave Spa.** This beautifully landscaped outdoor facility on a rugged hillside just outside Whistler brings a European sensibility to the local spa scene. Guests soak in open-air hot baths, sweat in wood-burning and steam saunas, and then plunge into ice-cold pools. The experience is repeated as many times as needed to ease away the aches and pains of skiing, biking, and traveling. A variety of massages are also available at extra cost. *8010 Mons Rd., 1.5km (1 mile) north of Whistler Village. 604/935-2424. www.scandinave.com. Scandinavian baths C$58. Massages start at C$135 per hr. AE, MC, V. Open daily 10am–9pm.*

★★ **Spa at Four Seasons Resort.** Arguably Whistler's best hotel spa, this immaculately designed facility features 14 treatment rooms, including a Vichy shower and couples massage rooms, as well as eucalyptus steam rooms and ice showers. Signature treatments include an après ski hot stone massage and rubs incorporating local seaweed, wildflowers, and clay harvested from glacial lakes. *4591 Blackcomb Way. 888/935-2460 or 604/935-3400. www.fourseasons.com/whistler. Most treatments C$100–C$300. AE, DC, MC, V. Open Sun–Thurs 8.30am–8pm; Fri–Sat 7:30am–10pm.*

Outdoor Tours

★★ **Blackcomb Aviation Helicopter Tours.** The best way to see and appreciate the sheer enormity of Whistler's mountains is by helicopter. Tour options change depending on the season. A range of short tours (all under an hour) are available year-round, including the "Whistler

Guests soak in open-air hot baths at Scandinave Spa.



Village Square is the heart of pedestrian-friendly Whistler.

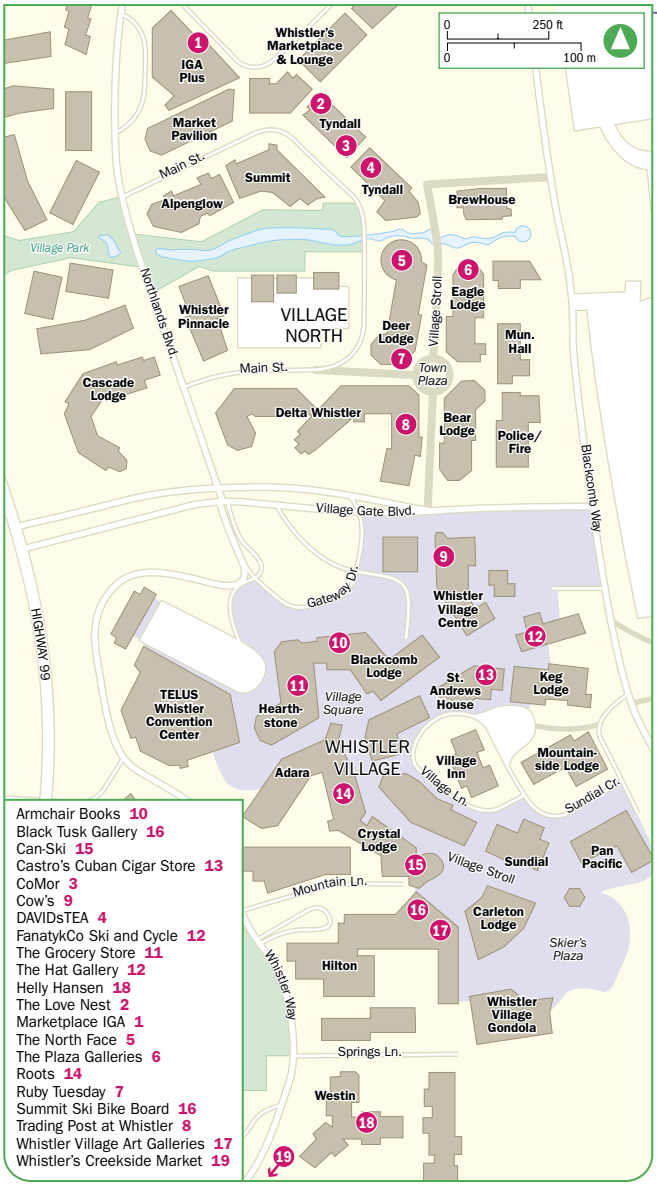
Explorer" flight (a 12-min. overview of the area's highlights, with an optional landing on a high-mountain glacier). In summer (June–Sept), things get more interesting, with the best option of all being a naturalist-led heli-glacier walking tour that takes you up onto the ice for a full day. There's also a unique heli-golfing package that integrates 18 holes at Big Sky Golf & Country Club with a helicopter flight to a specially built driving range near the 2,591m (8,501 ft.) summit of nearby Mt. Currie. ***30 min.–7 hr. Whistler Blackcomb. 800/330-4354. www.blackcombaviation.com. Whistler Explorer (2-person min.) C$119, add C$50 for glacier landing, full-day glacier walking tour (2-person min.) C$715, heli-golfing (greens fees included; 4-person min.) C$555. Tours include pickup and drop-off in Whistler Village.***

Whistler's Olympic Legacy

The 2010 Olympic Winter Games brought thousands of athletes and tens of thousands of fans to Whistler's powdery slopes. When the smoke cleared, Whistler was left with a bumper crop of new facilities and attractions. High above town, the Whistler Sliding Centre (p 149) gives visitors the chance to experience skeleton (like luge, but headfirst) on a real Olympic track, achieving speeds of 100kmph (60 mph). Inside the Village itself, the new Whistler Olympic Plaza features a giant version of the iconic Olympic rings (great for photo-ops), as well as a gleaming new performance pavilion for outdoor concerts and an expansive children's play area.

In the nearby Callaghan Valley, construction at the new Whistler Olympic Park (p 148) has added 90km (56 miles) of pristine cross-country skiing trails through forests and mountains to Whistler's extensive trail system. Finally, Whistler's Athletes Village, ready-built for the Games just outside of town, has been turned into a brand new neighborhood with a spiffy new hostel (p 175), whose restaurant-style kitchen and lounge outfitted with 52-inch plasma TV are sure to please travelers on a budget.

Shopping in Whistler



Armchair Books 10
Black Tusk Gallery 16
Can-Ski 15
Castro's Cuban Cigar Store 13
CoMor 3
Cow's 9
DAVIDsTEA 4
FanatykCo Ski and Cycle 12
The Grocery Store 11
The Hat Gallery 12
Helly Hansen 18
The Love Nest 2
Marketplace IGA 1
The North Face 5
The Plaza Galleries 6
Roots 14
Ruby Tuesdays 7
Summit Ski Bike Board 16
Trading Post at Whistler 8
Whistler Village Art Galleries 17
Whistler's Creekside Market 19

Shopping Best Bets

Best **Ski and Snowboard Shop**
★★★ Summit, *4293 Mountain Square (p 165)*

Best **Mountain Bike Shop**
★★ FanatykCo, *4433 Sundial Place (p 164)*

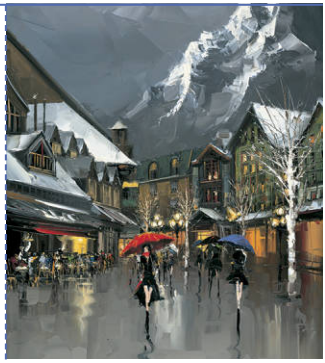
Best **Iconic Canadian Clothing Store**
★★★ Roots, *4229 Village Stroll (p 163)*

Best **Bookstore**
★★ Armchair Books, *4205 Village Sq. (p 163)*

Best **Ice-Cream (and Souvenir) Shop**
★★ Cow's, *4295 Blackcomb Way (p 163)*

Funkiest **Jewelry and Accessory Store**
★★ Ruby Tuesday, *314 Main St. (p 163)*

Best **Art Gallery**
★★★ The Plaza Galleries, *4314 Main St. (p 162)*



The Plaza Galleries caters to high-end tastes.

Best **Green, Black, White, and Oolong Tea Shop**
★★ DAVIDsTEA, *4338 Main St. (p 165)*

Best for **Groceries & Beer**
★★ The Grocery Store & BC Liquor, *4211 Village Sq. (p 164)*

Best **Canadian Kitsch**
★ Trading Post at Whistler, *4308 Main St. (p 163)*

Armchair Books is the best place in Whistler to pick up the latest bestseller.

Whistler Shopping A to Z

Shop Until You Drop

Whistler has so much shopping that folks on bus tours from Vancouver often do nothing but shop. The streets of the Village and Village North (and to a lesser extent, the Upper Village) are lined with ski stores, boutiques, souvenir shops, and innumerable national chain clothing and lifestyle shops, such as Roots, Eddie Bauer, Quicksilver, Lululemon, L'Occitane, and Merrill.

"Adult Accessories"

★ **The Love Nest** VILLAGE NORTH Every ski resort needs a good sex—er, "romantic accessories"—shop. Look here for sexy lingerie, toys, oils, and novelties. ***4338 Main St. ☎ 604/932-6906. AE, DC, MC, V. Map p 160.***

Art Galleries

★★ **Black Tusk Gallery** WHISTLER VILLAGE One of Whistler's best First Nations galleries, selling fine sculpture, totem poles, paintings, prints, masks, and jewelry. ***4293 Mountain Sq. (on Art Gallery Row, below the Hilton Resort). ☎ 604/905-5540. www.blacktusk.ca. DC, MC, V. Map p 160.***

★★★ **The Plaza Galleries** VILLAGE NORTH For big spenders, this place has Whistler art beyond bear sculptures and mountain paintings. High-end vases and glassware, unique wire-mesh friezes, and paintings of Paris, New York, and London by Kal Gajoum. ***4314 Main St. ☎ 604/938-6233. www.plazagalleries.com. AE, DC, MC, V. Map p 160.***

★★ **Whistler Village Art Galleries** WHISTLER VILLAGE Fine contemporary art, with an emphasis on sculptures of bears, big ones in hand-quarried marble by Cathryn Jenkins, and smaller ones in bronze by Georgia Gerber. ***4293 Mountain Sq. (on Art Gallery Row, below the Hilton Resort). ☎ 604/938-3001. www.whistlerart.com. AE, DC, MC, V. Map p 160.***

Whistler Village Art Galleries has a great selection of pieces by Canadian and international artists.

Books

★★ Armchair Books WHISTLER VILLAGE A well-stocked, well-arranged, welcoming little bookstore right in the center of the Village, selling hardcover and paperback fiction, nonfiction, children's books, magazines, and regional titles. ***4205 Village Sq. ☎ 604/932-5557. DC, MC, V. Map p 160.***

Canadian Kitsch

★ Trading Post at Whistler VILLAGE NORTH Perhaps Whistler's largest souvenir shop, boasting an extensive collection of stuffed animal moose in Mountie gear, Whistler sweatshirts, T-shirts, and key chains, as well as nifty personalized pocket knives. ***4308 Main St. ☎ 604/938-6204. AE, DC, MC, V. Map p 160.***

Cigars & Tobacco

★ Castro's Cuban Cigar Store WHISTLER VILLAGE The woody interior and wooden Indian evoke an early-20th-century cigar shop, as, for Americans, does their stock of Cohibas and other fine Cubans—a reminder of pre- (and, eventually) post–Cold War good times. ***4433 Sundial Place. ☎ 604/905-4440. www.getcubans.com. AE, DC, MC, V. Map p 160.***

Clothing, Shoes & Accessories

★ The Hat Gallery WHISTLER VILLAGE Head cold? This place stocks hundreds of ways to keep it warm and stylish. ***4295 Blackcomb Way. ☎ 604/938-6695. AE, DC, MC, V. Map p 160.***

★★★ Roots WHISTLER VILLAGE Canada's homegrown answer to the Gap, this retailer initially specialized in comfy, well-made (and pricey) sweats, but has since expanded to a full line of jeans, shirts, shoes, and accessories. ***4229 Village Stroll. ☎ 604/938-0058. www.canada.roots.com. AE, DC, MC, V. Map p 160.***

If you're hankering for a Cohiba, Castro's Cuban Cigar Store is the place to shop.

★★ Ruby Tuesday VILLAGE NORTH There always seems to be a crowd in this bright, funky little shop, specializing in accessibly priced, creatively designed jewelry from primarily local artisans. ***4314 Main St. ☎ 604/905-6290. www.rubytuesdayaccessories.com. AE, DC, MC, V. Map p 160.***

Ice Cream

★★ Cow's WHISTLER VILLAGE The big plastic cow out front lures in passersby for decadent, creatively

The Hat Gallery is a good bet for stylish head coverings.

named flavors like Moo York Cheesecake served in homemade waffle cones. Also inside is a whole line of cheeky, cow-themed T-shirts, caps, and souvenirs. ***4295 Blackcomb Way. ☎ 604/938-9822. www.cows.ca. AE, DC, MC, V. Map p 160.***

Groceries, Beer & Wine

★★ The Grocery Store (Whistler Grocery) WHISTLER VILLAGE With so many Whistler hotel rooms offering kitchens and kitchenettes, you need somewhere centrally located to buy groceries. This is it, right in the Village Square. There's a good (if a bit pricey) selection of pre-cooked meals, produce, and packaged goods, plus a large attached liquor store with the best prices in town (it's the law). ***4211 Village Sq. ☎ 604/932-3628. www.whistlergrocery.com. AE, DC, MC, V. Map p 160.***

★ Marketplace IGA VILLAGE NORTH Another, significantly larger grocery option, farther out from the village center. It's convenient for those staying in Village North or driving in to restock. ***4330 Northlands Blvd. ☎ 604/938-2850. www.marketplaceiga.com. AE, DC, MC, V. Map p 160.***

★★ Whistler's Creekside Market CREEKSIDE A more upscale grocery choice near the Creekside lifts, with fine meats and seafood, fresh produce, artisan bread, and a large deli counter. ***2071 Lake Placid Rd. ☎ 604/938-9301. www.creeksidemarket.com. AE, DC, MC, V. Map p 160.***

Outdoor, Ski, Bike & Sporting Gear

★★ Can-Ski WHISTLER VILLAGE This Whistler institution (with three stores around town) sells skis, poles, and boots, as well as designer outerwear from North Face, Marmot, Arc'teryx, and other brands. This store is open year-round. ***4253 Village Stroll. ☎ 604/938-7755. AE, DC, MC, V. Map p 160.***

★★ CoMor VILLAGE NORTH Near the new Whistler Olympic Plaza, CoMor boasts that it's the largest ski and snowboard shop in town. Inside there's performance ski and snowboard gear and clothing from famous manufacturers, plus street clothes, sunglasses, accessories, and more. ***4338 Main St. ☎ 604/938-8898. www.comorsports.com. AE, DC, MC, V. Map p 160.***

★★ FanatykCo Ski and Cycle WHISTLER VILLAGE For more than a decade, this has been the go-to destination in Whistler for expert repairs, sales, and rentals of mountain bikes. Laid-back sales staff answer questions from hard-core riders splattered head-to-toe in mud. ***4433 Sundial Place. ☎ 604/938-9455. www.fanatykco.com. AE, DC, MC, V. Map p 160.***

Helly Hansen sells great parkas and other winter-weather gear.

★★ **Helly Hansen** WHISTLER VILLAGE The Norwegian outdoor-clothing giant offers a large selection of sportswear, outerwear, and footwear. This store, near the Westin Resort, is the larger of two outlets in town. ***4090 Whistler Way. ☎ 604/932-0142. www.hellyhansen.com. AE, DC, MC, V. Map p 160.***

★ **The North Face** VILLAGE NORTH This cavernous new outlet store on the Village Stroll offers backpacks, outerwear, sleeping bags, and designer duds from the famous-name outdoor company. ***4314 Main St. ☎ 604/932-4193. www.thenorthface.com. AE, DC, MC, V. Map p 160.***

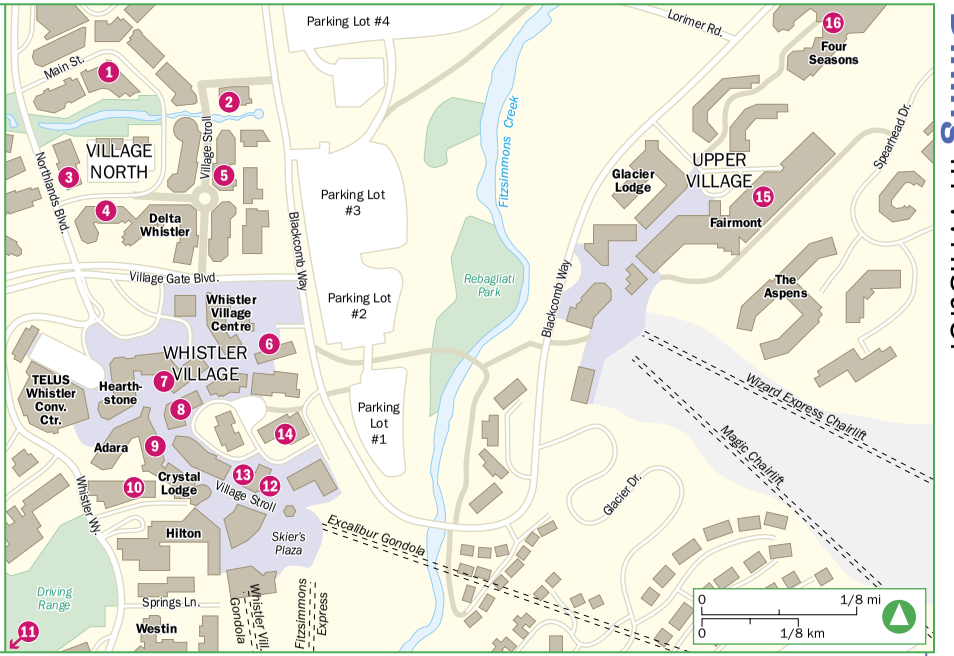
★★★ **Summit Ski Bike Board** WHISTLER VILLAGE The only full-service shop of its kind in Whistler, Summit rents, sells, and repairs mountain bikes, skis, and snowboards. The basement houses a huge selection of bikes in summer and skis and boards in winter. ***4293 Mountain Sq. ☎ 866/608-6225. www.summitsport.com. AE, DC, MC, V. Map p 160.***

Tea

★★ **DAVIDsTEA** VILLAGE NORTH Fancy a coconut chai rooibos or organic mint tea flavored with gooseberries and rose? You'll find it here. Rock and pop music blares while tea aficionados browse, sniff, and sip from a selection of 70-plus loose-leaf green, white, black, oolong, and rooibos teas. ***4338 Main St. ☎ 604/932-0284. www.davidstea.com. AE, DC, MC, V. Map p 160.***

Dining in Whistler

Alta Bistro 3
Araxi 7
Aura 11
BBQ Bob's 11
Bearfoot Bistro 10
Caramba! 5
Earl's 6
Elements 1
Hy's Steakhouse 4
La Bocca 8
The Mix by Ric's 9
Portobello 15
Quattro 3
Rim Rock Café & Oyster Bar 11
Sidecut 16
Sushi Village 13
Trattoria Di'Umberto 14
Whistler Brewhouse 2
Zog's 12



Dining Best Bets

For award-winning regional cuisine and a superb wine list, you can't do much better than Araxi.

Best **Pub Menu**
★★ Dubh Linn Gate Irish Pub $$ *4320 Sundial Crescent (p 180)*

Best **BC Regional Cuisine**
★★★ Araxi $$$ *4222 Village Sq. (p 168)*

Best **Fine Dining (with an astounding wine list)**
★★★ Bearfoot Bistro $$$$ *4121 Village Green (p 168)*

Best **Seafood**
★★★ Rimrock Café & Oyster Bar $$$ *2117 Whistler Rd. (p 170)*

Best **Steakhouse**
★★★ Hy's Steakhouse $$$ *4308 Main St. (p 169)*

Best **Family Restaurant**
★ Caramba! $$ *4314 Main St. (p 169)*

Best **Quick, Hip Meal**
★★★ Alta Bistro $$ *4319 Main St. (p 168)*

Best **Ambience**
★★★ Aura $$$ *2131 Lake Placid Rd. (p 168)*

Best **Sushi**
★ Sushi Village $–$$ *4272 Mountain Sq. (p 171)*

Best **Barbecue**
★ BBQ Bob's $ *2129 Lake Placid Rd. (p 168)*

Best **Brewpub**
Whistler Brewhouse $$ *4355 Blackcomb Way (p 171)*

Best **Italian**
★★ Trattoria Di'Umberto $$$ *4417 Sundial Place (p 171)*

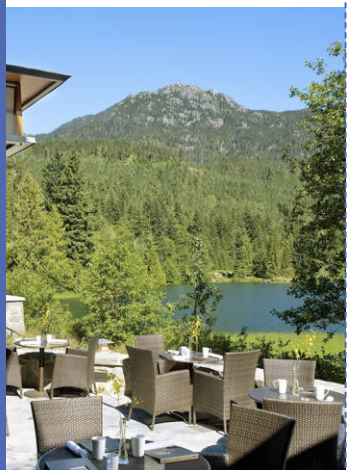
Best **Deli-style Sandwiches**
★★ Portobello $ *4599 Chateau Blvd. (p 170)*

Whistler Dining A to Z

★★★ **Alta Bistro** VILLAGE NORTH *FRENCH* A pleasant alternative to Whistler's glitzy destination restaurants, this casual French bistro offers fare that is flavorful and affordable in an intimate setting. There's art on the wall, jazz music on the speakers, and a decent wine list to complement the ever-changing menu highlighting classics like beef burgundy and duck confit. ***4319 Main St. ☎ 604/932-2582. www.altabistro.com. Entrees C$15–C$30. AE, MC, V. Dinner daily. Map p 166.***

★★★ **Araxi** WHISTLER VILLAGE *BC REGIONAL* A perennial "best restaurant in Whistler" award-winner, Araxi serves a menu of West Coast regional cuisine incorporating Pacific seafood and local farm produce and meats. The wine list is superb (and huge, with 800 different labels), the decor is contemporary Mediterranean, and there's a great heated patio for good-weather dining. ***4222 Village Sq. ☎ 604/932-4540. www.araxi.com. Entrees C$23–C$39. AE, DC, MC, V. Lunch and dinner daily. Map p 166.***

Elegant Aura overlooks Nita Lake.



★★★ **Aura** WHISTLER CREEKSIDE *BC REGIONAL* With a dining room and patio overlooking scenic Nita Lake, this elegant restaurant at the Nita Lake Lodge specializes in organic and sustainable fare sourced from local farmers, ranchers, and fishermen. Herbs are grown on-site, and the skilled chef cures many of his own meats and makes use of progressive sous vide cooking techniques. Meals are served as 3-, 5-, or—if you're really hungry—10-course tasting menus. ***2131 Lake Placid Rd. ☎ 604/966-5700. www.nitalakelodge.com/nita-lake-dining. 3-course prix-fixe menu C$49. AE, DC, MC, V. Dinner daily. Map p 166.***

★ **BBQ Bob's** CREEKSIDE *BARBECUE* An improbable outpost of authentic and cheap barbecue in a ritzy resort town, Bob's serves slow-roasted beef brisket, pulled pork, and ribs cooked over a wood fire. The down-home setting outside the Village is a local favorite and good antidote to the glitz of Whistler. Plus, Bob's also delivers and can even fetch your beer or wine from the adjoining liquor store for you. ***2129 Lake Placid Rd. ☎ 604/932-4424. www.rolandswhistler.com. Entrees C$8–C$23. AE, DC, MC, V. Dinner daily; lunch Sat–Sun. Map p 166.***

★★★ **Bearfoot Bistro** WHISTLER VILLAGE *FINE DINING* Emphasizing haute cuisine in a high-energy atmosphere, the Bearfoot serves custom three- and five-course tasting menus featuring the finest ingredients from around the world: from Alberta elk with foie gras to albacore tuna with grilled squid. High-back leather chairs, low lighting, an open kitchen, and a spiral stair to the wine cellar (one of the largest in Canada) highlight the dining room. For a unique

Innovative cuisine and an elegant setting make Bearfoot Bistro a winner.

experience, don a guest parka and head into the ice-block-lined, –18 degrees Celsius (0 degrees Fahrenheit) Belvedere Ice Room, where you can sample from 54 types of vodka. ***4121 Village Green. ☎ 604/932-3433. www.bearfootbistro.com. 3-course tasting menu from C$49. AE, DC, MC, V. Dinner daily. Map p 166.***

★ kids **Caramba!** VILLAGE NORTH *MEDITERRANEAN* Not a Mexican restaurant, despite the name, Caramba! serves fresh, flavorful pasta, wood-oven pizza, rotisserie meats, and seafood in a fun, casual, family-oriented environment. ***4314 Main St. ☎ 604/938-1879. www.carambarestaurante.com. Entrees C$13–C$21. AE, DC, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Map p 166.***

★★ **Earl's** WHISTLER VILLAGE *ECLECTIC* Offering a trendy, young vibe (albeit with moose antlers hung from the ceiling), an eclectic and reliable menu, and slightly lower prices than elsewhere in Whistler, chain restaurant Earl's is normally packed, often with a line stretching out the door. Food, while not terribly exciting, is fresh and flavorful, with a broad selection of burgers, pastas, woks, steak, and seafood. ***4295 Blackcomb Way. ☎ 604/935-3222. www.earls.ca. Entrees C$14–C$26. AE, DC, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Map p 166.***

★ **Elements** VILLAGE NORTH *TAPAS* A fun, hip tapas joint with a view kitchen, a softly lit woody interior, and a burbling waterfall and copper accents for ambience. Plates emphasize Mediterranean and regional tastes, with nods eastward to Asia. ***4359 Main St. (at the Summit Lodge). ☎ 604/932-5569. www.wildwoodrestaurants.ca/htm/pbistro.html. Small plates C$6–C$17. DC, MC, V. Breakfast, lunch & dinner daily. Map p 166.***

★★★ **Hy's Steakhouse** VILLAGE NORTH *STEAK* The big, fancy steakhouse every resort town needs, Hy's is a classic, wood-paneled room serving a menu of aged AAA Alberta beef, seafood, oysters, hearty soups (think baked French onion), classic salads (think prepared at the table), and more, with a good wine list to wash it all down. ***4308 Main St. ☎ 604/905-5555. www.hyssteakhouse.com/hys-whistler.html. Entrees C$27–C$55. AE, DC, MC, V. Dinner daily. Map p 166.***

★ **La Bocca** WHISTLER VILLAGE *FUSION* Owing more to its prime location on Whistler's Village Square than to its kitchen, this funky, moderately priced bistro is nearly always crowded and lively. The interior is a bit dark, but the large, heated patio makes a perfect location for people-watching. The eclectic menu blends East and West with seafood, pastas, wok dishes, steaks, schnitzel, and fondue. ***4232 Whistler Village Sq. ☎ 604/932-2112. www.labocca.moonfruit.com. Entrees C$20–C$34. AE, DC, MC, V. Breakfast, lunch & dinner daily. Map p 166.***

★ **The Mix by Ric's** WHISTLER VILLAGE *FUSION* A stylish little spot with a chic interior and a cozy patio along the Village Stroll. The tapas-heavy menu features Kobe beef sliders and grilled lamb pops, as well as the steaks and chops requisite at

The Mix by Ric's is a good choice for a low-key meal in a stylish setting.

most Whistler restaurants. Open until 1:30am every night, it's a good spot for a late-night meal. ***4237 Village Stroll. ☎ 604/932-6499. www.ricsgrill.com. Entrees C$15–C$33. AE, DC, MC, V. Breakfast, lunch & dinner daily. Map p 166.***

★★ **Portobello** UPPER VILLAGE *SANDWICHES* A rarity in the tony Upper Village, Portobello in the Fairmont Chateau Whistler basement serves "food on the run": custom-made deli sandwiches, soups, pizza slices, and breakfast items that can be ordered takeout or eaten in the warm, brick and wood dining area. There's also a minibakery with pastries, muffins, coffee, and Belgian hot chocolate. It's all a bit on the pricey side, but fresh and delicious. ***4599 Chateau Blvd. (in the Fairmont). ☎ 604/938-2040. www.fairmont.com/whistler/GuestServices/Restaurants/PortobelloMarketFreshBakery.htm. Sandwiches C$8. AE, DC, MC, V. Breakfast & lunch daily. Map p 166.***

Just one of many delectable Tuscan-inspired dishes at Trattoria Di'Umberto.

★★ **Quattro** VILLAGE NORTH *ITALIAN* Upscale, traditional Italian (no Olive Garden–type fare here) with romantically low lights, gleaming wood, fireplaces, and attentive service. The menu features savory starters including beef tenderloin carpaccio, as well as veal, lamb, and seafood mains. But the specialty of the house is pasta, including the decadent ravioli rocca gorga, stuffed with smoked pork cheek and ricotta. Really hungry? Consider the sharing platters featuring five different pastas. ***4319 Main St. (in the Pinnacle Hotel). ☎ 604/905-4844. www.quattrorestaurants.com/windex.html. Entrees C$24–C$36. AE, DC, MC, V. Dinner daily. Map p 166.***

★★★ **Rimrock Café & Oyster Bar** CREEKSIDE *SEAFOOD* This rustic, dignified little spot—a bit off the beaten path on the drive to Creekside, Whistler's satellite village—serves some of the best seafood in town. Patrons dine at antique wooden tables under a high, peaked ceiling, with two stone fireplaces to keep them warm in winter. Oysters, served six different ways, are a good starter. Seafood and game entrees (including caribou and venison)

rotate with the seasons. ***2117 Whistler Rd. ☎ 877/932-5589 or 604/932-5565. www.rimrockwhistler.com. 3-course special C$49 (or a la carte entrees C$39). AE, DC, MC, V. Dinner daily. Map p 166.***

★★ **Sidecut** UPPER VILLAGE *STEAK* Named for the curvature of a ski, the Four Seasons' stylish new steakhouse serves aged Canadian prime beef with a variety of dipping sauces, as well as seafood and regional specialties like venison and bison short ribs. Ambience is younger and hipper than you might expect, with an inviting circular fireplace inside and a heated patio outside that's popular with locals. ***4591 Blackcomb Way (in the Four Seasons). ☎ 604/966-5280. www.fourseasons.com/whistler/dining/sidecut. Entrees C$31–C$50. AE, DISC, DC, MC, V. Dinner daily. Map p 166.***

★ **Sushi Village** WHISTLER VILLAGE *SUSHI* Located close to the lifts, this busy, casual spot on the second floor has been a Whistler institution for more than a quarter century, serving a large menu of fresh sushi, sashimi, and teriyaki dishes. In back, semiprivate rooms with rice-paper doors and low tables are great for groups. ***4272 Mountain Sq. ☎ 604/932-3330. www.sushivillage.com. Sushi rolls C$4–C$14. AE, DC, MC, V. Dinner daily; lunch Fri–Sun. Map p 166.***

★★ **Trattoria Di'Umberto** WHISTLER VILLAGE *ITALIAN* Two wonderfully warm, rustic dining rooms are the setting for classic Tuscan meals. The kitchen is open, the service is friendly, and the pastas and risottos are delicious. ***4417 Sundial Place. ☎ 604/932-5858. www.hotelvilladelia.com/restaurant_trattoria.cfm. Entrees C$22–C$45. AE, DC, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Map p 166.***

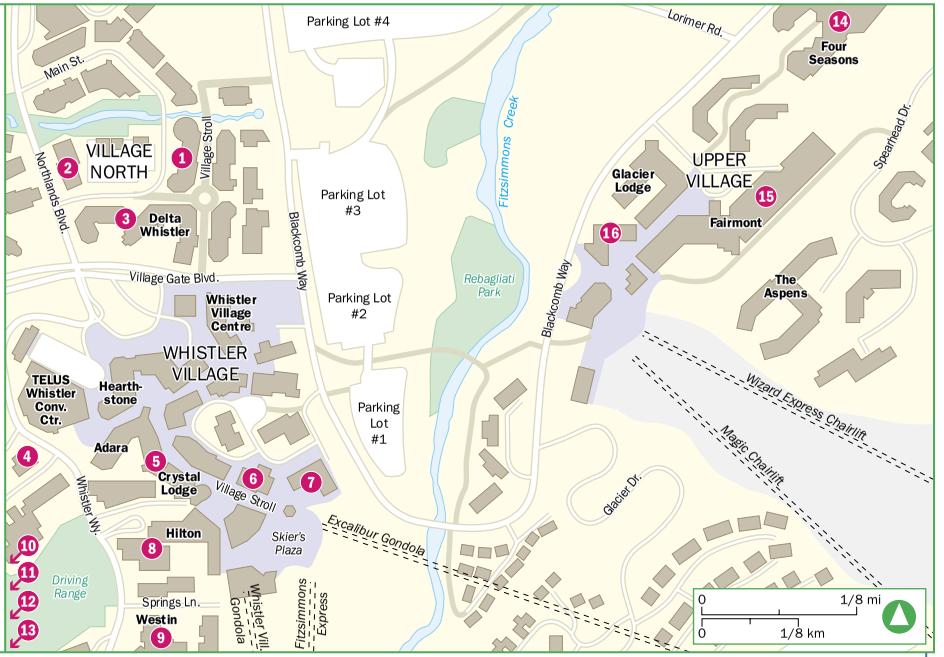
kids **Whistler Brewhouse** VILLAGE NORTH *BREWPUB* This mountain lodge-meets-sports bar has the usual family-oriented brewpub amenities: fermenting tanks, fireplaces, TVs in the bar area, and a menu of pizzas, pasta, burgers, soups, salads, and homebrewed beers and ales (try the refreshing Lifty Lager). A model train circles a track up near the ceiling. A bit on the pricey side, but the convivial service makes up for it. ***4355 Blackcomb Way. ☎ 604/905-2739. www.markjamesgroup.com/whistler.html. Entrees C$18–C$40. AE, DC, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Map p 166.***

★ **Zog's** WHISTLER VILLAGE *STREET FOOD* This snack stand not far from the Whistler Village lifts is an open-air institution, perhaps most famous for its *poutine,* a French-Canadian combination of fries, gravy, and cheese curds. There are also burgers, hot dogs, veggie dogs, and fried "beavertail" pastries. None of it is terribly good, but Zog's is a rare spot for a quick, cheap bite to eat, day or night. ***4340 Sundial Crescent. ☎ 604/938-6644. All items under C$10. Cash only. Open 10am–2:30am daily. Map p 166.***

The Whistler Brewhouse's broad menu features good pizzas.

Hotels in Whistler

- Aava Whistler Hotel 4
- Crystal Lodge 5
- Delta Whistler Village Suites 3
- Fairmont Chateau Whistler 15
- First Tracks Lodge 12
- Four Seasons Resort Whistler 14
- Hilton Whistler Resort & Spa 8
- Hostelling International Whistler 10
- Le Chamois Whistler 16
- Legends Whistler 13
- Nita Lake Lodge 11
- Pan Pacific Whistler Mountainside 7
- Pinnacle International Resort 2
- Summit Lodge & Spa 1
- Sundial Boutique Hotel 6
- Westin Resort & Spa 9



Hotel Best Bets

The gorgeous Pan Pacific Whistler Mountainside is the closest hotel to the gondolas.

Best **Location**
★★★ Pan Pacific Whistler Mountainside $$$ *4320 Sundial Crescent (p 176)*

Most **Unbelievably Luxurious**
★★★ Four Seasons Resort Whistler $$$ *4591 Blackcomb Way (p 175)*

Best **Ski-In/Ski-Out Bargain**
★★ Le Chamois Whistler $$ *4557 Blackcomb Way (p 175)*

Best **Boutique Hotel**
★★ Sundial Boutique Hotel $$ *4340 Sundial Crescent (p 177)*

Best **Hotel for Getting Away from It All**
★★★ Nita Lake Lodge $$ *2131 Lake Placid Rd. (p 176)*

Best **Hotel Spa**
★★★ Four Seasons Resort Whistler $$$ *4591 Blackcomb Way (p 175)*

Best **Budget Accommodations**
Hostelling International $ *1035 Legacy Way (p 175)*

Best **Hot Tub**
★★★ Pan Pacific Whistler Mountainside $$$ *4320 Sundial Crescent (p 176)*

Best **Real Log-Burning Fireplace in Rooms**
★★ Hilton Whistler Resort & Spa $$$ *4050 Whistler Way (p 175)*

Whistler Hotels A to Z

The lounge at Crystal Lodge.

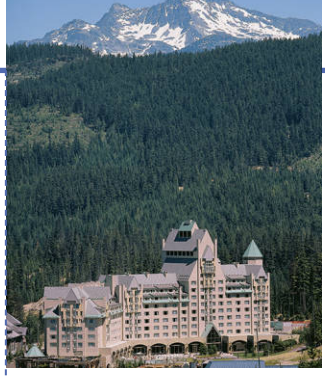
★★ Aava Whistler Hotel WHISTLER VILLAGE Among Whistler's newest hotels, Aava dispenses with the heavy timber and stone decorating theme that prevails at other properties, instead offering refreshingly modern, bright rooms at a moderate price. In contrast to units at many Whistler hotels, Aava's rooms are mostly classic hotel-style (for example, no kitchenette or self-catering amenities). ***4005 Whistler Way. ☎ 800/663-5644 or 604/932-2522. www.aavawhistlerhotel.com. 193 units. Doubles C$220–C$250. AE, DC, MC, V. Map p. 172.***

★ Crystal Lodge WHISTLER VILLAGE Crystal Lodge was one of the first hotels in Whistler, and has the location to prove it: right on Mountain Square, about 100m (328 ft.) from the lifts. Standard rooms aren't the village's most inspiring, but the suites are a big improvement. There's a heated pool outside, and the rec room–style Crystal Lounge attracts a young, snowboard crowd. ***4154 Village Green. ☎ 800/667-3363 or 604/932-2221. www.crystal-lodge.com. 151 units. Doubles C$206–C$260. AE, DISC, MC, V. Map p 172.***

★ Delta Whistler Village Suites VILLAGE NORTH A solid, unpretentious hotel located a few minutes' walk from the lifts. The majority of rooms are one- and two-bedroom suites, all with full kitchen, fireplace, and washer/dryer. There's a heated outdoor pool and hot tubs inside and out. ***4308 Main St. ☎ 888/299-3987 or 604/905-3987. www.deltahotels.com. 205 units. 1-bedroom suite C$269–C$319. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Map p 172.***

★★★ Fairmont Chateau Whistler UPPER VILLAGE Simply "the château" to regulars, this grand dame (dating all the way back to 1989, an eternity in Whistler years) is the consummate alpine resort: a genteel universe unto itself with shops, restaurants, bars, and richly furnished public areas. The lobby goes for an epic mountain lodge feel with massive stone fireplaces, while the spacious, comfortable rooms stick to contemporary decor. The hotel's ski-in/ski-out location at the base of Blackcomb Mountain is ideal, and there's a spa and an 18-hole, par-72 Robert Trent Jones, Jr., golf course on-site. ***4599 Chateau Blvd. ☎ 800/606-8244 or 604/938-8000. www.fairmont.com/whistler. 550 units. Doubles C$339–C$439. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Map p 172.***

★★ First Tracks Lodge CREEKSIDE Set at the base of the mountain in Whistler Creekside, First Tracks offers one-, two-, three-, and four-bedroom suites, each with a balcony or patio, gas fireplace, full kitchen, and washer/dryer. Its location is great for people wanting a quieter experience than you get in the Village. ***2202 Gondola Way. ☎ 866/385-0614 or 604/990-6610. www.firsttrackslodge.com. 58 units. 1-bedroom suite C$270–C$350. AE, DC, MC, V. Map p 172.***



The Fairmont Chateau Whistler is located right at the base of Blackcomb Mountain.

★★★ Four Seasons Resort Whistler UPPER VILLAGE Whistler's most unabashedly luxurious hotel is a huge but surprisingly intimate palace snuggled into the quiet Upper Village. Public areas exude a millionaire-rustic vibe, while rooms and suites are done in sober dark woods, leather, and rich fabrics. Everything looks like it will last for generations. All rooms have a fireplace, balcony, and bathroom with separate tub and extra-large shower. A separate wing has two- to four-bedroom suites for longer stays. The gorgeous spa includes First Nations–inspired treatments, and the outdoor courtyard has a large heated pool and three hot tubs. ***4591 Blackcomb Way. ☎ 888/935-2460 or 604/935-3400. www.fourseasons.com/whistler. 310 units. Doubles C$405–C$825. AE, DISC, DC, MC, V. Map p 172.***

★★ Hilton Whistler Resort & Spa WHISTLER VILLAGE Located close to the lifts, the Hilton offers a vibe that's part resort, part convention hotel. Rooms and suites are very spacious, with thick beds plus deep soaker tubs in the bathrooms. Premiere Rooms have galley kitchenettes. Suites offer a variety of additional perks, such as full kitchens, balconies, and private steam rooms. They also feature log-burning fireplaces (and complimentary fire logs), a rare flickering, crackling treat in the age of gas fireplaces. There's a heated outdoor pool, indoor and outdoor hot tubs, and the Cinnamon Bear Bar & Grill, a popular sports bar (p 180). ***4050 Whistler Way. ☎ 800/515-4050 or 604/932-1982. www.hiltonwhistler.com. 289 units. Doubles C$289–C$309. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Map p 172.***

The lobby of the Fours Seasons Resort Whistler.

Hostelling International Whistler CHEAKAMUS CROSSING Although it's a 10-minute drive (or bus ride) from the Village, this brand new hostel is a welcome addition to Whistler's scarce budget accommodations options. There are 14 sparkling clean private rooms, as well as 40 dorm rooms with four beds each. The prettiest hostel I've ever seen, this HI features a commercial kitchen to cook your meals, a game room with free pool and foosball, and a lounge with 52-inch plasma TV and deep leather chairs. ***1035 Legacy Way. ☎ 866/762-4122 or 604/962-0025. www.hihostels.ca/westerncanada/331/HI-Whistler.hostel. 188 beds. Private rooms C$95–C$135; dorm beds C$35–C$40. AE, DC, MC, V. Map p 172.***

★★ Le Chamois Whistler UPPER VILLAGE Wedged amid the five-star palaces in Whistler's ritzy Upper Village is this moderately priced ski-in/

ski-out gem. Spacious studio and one- to three-bedroom suites all have mountain views, as well as deep-soaker Jacuzzi tubs and kitchenettes with microwave and bar fridge. ***4557 Blackcomb Way. ☎ 604/932-8700. www.lechamoiswhistlerhotel.com. 42 units. 1-bedroom suite C$153–C$271. AE, DC, MC, V. Map p 172.***

★ kids **Legends Whistler** CREEKSIDE A sister property to First Tracks Lodge, this family-friendly hotel with a playroom for the kids is right next to the Creekside Gondola, offering ski-in/ski-out convenience. All accommodations are one- to three-bedroom suites done in a comfy home style, each with a gas fireplace, full kitchen, washer/dryer, sofa bed, bathtub/shower combo, and a balcony, patio, or terrace. There's a heated outdoor pool and hot tub, as well as steam room and sauna. ***2036 London Lane. ☎ 866/385-0611 or 604/990-6610. www.legendswhistler.com. 121 units. 1-bedroom suites C$225–C$300. AE, DC, MC, V. Map p 172.***

★★★ **Nita Lake Lodge** CREEKSIDE A gorgeous boutique hotel in a secluded residential neighborhood near Creekside, on the shore of Nita Lake. Interiors are high-design rustic, all dark woods, leather upholstery, and stone floors. All rooms have fireplaces, wonderful king-size beds, minikitchens with a microwave and bar fridge, and enormous bathrooms with a separate large shower and soaker tub. Most rooms have balconies. There's a fantastic lobby lounge, acclaimed restaurant serving sustainable, organic cuisine, and spa specializing in Indian ayurvedic treatments. The Whistler Mountaineer's Whistler station is part of the hotel, and the Valley Trail to the Village is right outside. ***2131 Lake Placid Rd. ☎ 888/755-6482 or 604/966-5700. www.nitalakelodge.com. 77 units. Studio suites C$319–C$343. AE, MC, V. Map p 172.***

The lobby of the Pinnacle International Resort.

★★★ **Pan Pacific Whistler Mountainside** WHISTLER VILLAGE The closest hotel to the Whistler and Blackcomb gondolas, the gorgeous Pan Pacific offers studios and one- and two-bedroom suites, all with full kitchens, gas fireplaces, oversize bathtubs, and views of the mountain or valley from balconies or floor-to-ceiling windows. Decor is pleasantly contemporary. The roof deck is home to Whistler's best pool-and-Jacuzzi setup, with great views of the slopes. ***4320 Sundial Crescent. ☎ 888/905-9995 or 604/905-2999. www.panpacific.com/en/Whistler Mountainside/Overview.html. 121 units. Studio suites C$299–C$319. AE, DC, MC, V. Map p 172.***

★ **Pinnacle International Resort** VILLAGE NORTH In Village North's Marketplace area, about 10 minutes' walk from the lifts, the Pinnacle offers good value for the money. Open, studio-plan rooms come with gas fireplaces, full kitchens, and Jacuzzi tubs, often in the main room. There's a heated outdoor pool and hot tub, and an Italian restaurant, Quattro (p 170), on the ground floor. ***4319 Main St. ☎ 888/999-8986 or 604/938-3218.***

A suite at the Sundial Boutique Hotel.

www.whistlerpinnacle.com. 84 units. Studio suites C$229–C$249. AE, DC, MC, V. Map p 172.

★ Summit Lodge & Spa VILLAGE NORTH Located near the Pinnacle (above), about 10 minutes' walk (or a quick, complimentary shuttle ride) from the lifts, the Summit's studios and one-bedroom suites lack distinctive decor but are reasonably priced and outfitted with kitchenettes, gas fireplaces, large tubs, and balconies. There's an outdoor pool and hot tub, and an "east meets west" spa on-site. ***4359 Main St. ☎ 888/913-8811 or 604/932-2778. www.summitlodge.com. 81 units. Studio C$228–C$268. AE, DC, MC, V. Map p 172.***

★★ Sundial Boutique Hotel WHISTLER VILLAGE Sharing "best location" honors with the Pan Pacific Mountainside and the Westin, the Sundial offers beautifully appointed boutique accommodations just steps from the Whistler and Blackcomb gondolas. The feel is homey, low-key, and quietly hands-off, as if you're a long-term resident. All rooms are one- and two-bedroom suites with living rooms, full kitchens, gas fireplaces, contemporary West Coast mountain styling, and windows all around for views. Some suites have deep-soaker Jacuzzi tubs in the bedroom; eight have decks with hot tubs looking toward mountain or village views. There's a single public rooftop hot tub (but no views if you're in the water) and a spa on-site. ***4340 Sundial Crescent. ☎ 800/661-2321 or 604/932-2321. www.sundialhotel.com. 49 units. 1-bedroom suites C$277–C$322. AE, DC, MC, V. Map p 172.***

★★ Westin Resort & Spa WHISTLER VILLAGE With a great location right by the lifts, the huge Westin offers junior and one- and two-bedroom suites, some with loft bedrooms. All have full kitchens, gas fireplaces, soaker tubs, slate-lined showers, and a decor scheme that's comfortable and homey if not overly stylish. There's an indoor/outdoor pool (separated by glass doors, with a swim-through channel in between) and hot tubs, an on-site spa, and a fitness club. ***4090 Whistler Way. ☎ 888/634-5577 or 604/905-5000. www.westinwhistler.com. 419 units. Junior suites C$439–C$489. AE, DC, MC, V. Map p 172.***

Nightlife & Entertainment in Whistler

Amsterdam Cafe Pub 5
Buffalo Bills Bar & Grill 6
Cinnamon Bear Bar 13
Crystal Lounge 7
Dubh Linn Gate Irish Pub 10
Dusty's Bar & BBQ 9
Fifty Two 80 Bistro and Bar 14
Garfinkels Club 1
Garibaldi Lift Co. Bar and Grill 2
Longhorn Saloon & Grill 11
The Mallard Lounge 15
Maxx Fish 5
Merlin's 16
Roland's Creekside Pub 8
Tommy Africa's Bar 3
Village 8 Cinemas 2
Village Lounge & Nightclub 4

Nightlife & Entertainment
Best Bets

The Dubh Linn Gate is the most authentic Irish pub you'll find in Whistler.

Best **Irish Pub**
★★ Dubh Linn Gate Irish Pub, *4320 Sundial Crescent (p 180)*

Best **Dance Club**
★★ Buffalo Bills Bar and Grill, *4122 Village Green (p 181)*

Best **Après-Ski Bar**
★★ Longhorn Saloon & Grill, *4280 Mountain Sq. (p 181)*

Best **Funky Little Bar**
★ Amsterdam Cafe Pub, *4232 Village Stroll (p 180)*

Best **Location**
★★ Garibaldi Lift Co. Bar and Grill, *at the base of the Whistler Gondola (p 181)*

Best **Real Neighborhood Bar**
★★ Roland's Creekside Pub, *2129 Lake Placid Rd. (p 181)*

Best for **Billiards**
★★ Cinnamon Bear Bar, *4050 Village Way (p 180)*

Best **Country Club Atmosphere**
★ The Mallard Lounge, *4599 Chateau Blvd. (p 181)*

Best **Movie Theater**
Village 8 Cinemas, *4295 Blackcomb Way (p 182)*

Most **Creative Weekly Food and Drink Specials**
★★ Fifty Two 80 Bistro and Bar, *4591Blackcomb Way (p 180)*

Best Place to **Drink Beer While Minding Your Kids**
Whistler Brewhouse, *4355 Blackcomb Way (p 171)*

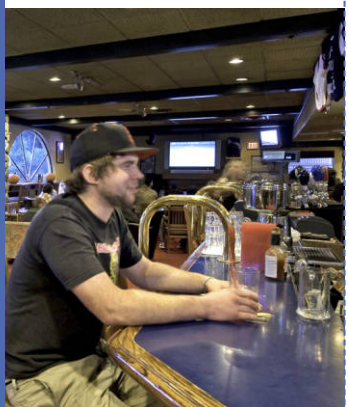
Whistler **Nightlife & Entertainment**

Après Ski Bars & Lounges

★ **Amsterdam Cafe Pub** WHISTLER VILLAGE With a great little patio and prime spot right in the pedestrian heart of Whistler at Village Square, this pub is usually packed with a lively après-ski crowd. Inside, it's warm and woody, with waitresses who are deliberately, cheekily blunt, and indifferent. There's a simple pub menu, plus breakfast all day in case beer isn't enough. ***4232 Village Stroll. ☎ 604/932-8334. www.amsterdampub.moonfruit.com. Map p 178.***

★★ **Cinnamon Bear Bar** WHISTLER VILLAGE An après-ski joint popular with locals, the Cinnamon Bear has a high-ceilinged central area with a stone fireplace, leather armchairs, built-in backgammon and chess boards, and two great pool tables. It's frequently named Whistler's best pool-playing bar. ***4050 Whistler Way (in the Hilton). ☎ 800/515-4050. www.hiltonwhistler.com/whistler-village-hotels/whistler-bars-restaurants/cbb-bar.php. Map p 178.***

The Crystal Lounge is sort of a giant rec room for the young and active set—with lots of beer.



Crystal Lounge WHISTLER VILLAGE Located underground in the Crystal Lodge, this lounge looks like a big rec room and attracts a young, snowboarding crowd. There's live music sometimes, TV sports, and drunk young folks. ***4154 Village Green. ☎ 604/938-1081. Map p 178.***

★★ **Dubh Linn Gate Irish Pub** WHISTLER VILLAGE Located rock-throwing distance from Blackcomb's Excalibur Gondola, this pleasantly knicked-up and musty Irish pub has an authentic, wood-filled interior (brought piece-by-piece from Dublin) full of memorabilia and cozy touches. It's often packed and lively, which makes sense since the Guinness is well-poured, the pub menu is solid, and there's frequent live music. ***4320 Sundial Crescent (in the Pan Pacific Lodge). ☎ 604/905-4047. www.dubhlinngate.com. Map p 178.***

★ **Dusty's Bar & BBQ** CREEKSIDE The preferred après-ski destination in the Creekside neighborhood, Dusty's looks like a cross between an enormous mountain chalet and a Wild West saloon. The interior is a big, loud, open room with worn wood furniture and scuffed floors. They serve burgers and decent pulled pork and chicken, and there's a nice rooftop patio with fire pits for watching the action on the slopes. ***2040 London Lane. ☎ 604/938-7319. Map p 178.***

★★ **Fifty Two 80 Bistro and Bar** UPPER VILLAGE This bar inside the Four Season is—believe it or not—a popular locals hangout tucked away in the snootified Upper Village. The main draw is the large, heated terrace outside with a wood-burning fire pit. There are great

The Fifty Two 80 Bistro and Bar is popular with both locals and guests of the Four Seasons.

weekly promotions like Fish Fry Mondays and half-price bottles of wine on Wednesdays. ***4591 Blackcomb Way. ☎ 604/966-5280. www.fourseasons.com/whistler/dining/fifty_two_80_bistro_and_bar. Map p 178.***

★★ Garibaldi Lift Co. Bar and Grill WHISTLER VILLAGE You can't get any closer to the slopes than this: The Garibaldi is perched right at the lower edge of the slopes, between the Fitzsimmons Chairlift and the Whistler Express Gondola. Big and fun, it's got a large slope-side patio; a big fireplace; windows all around; reggae and dance music in the evenings; and a menu of tapas, pizza, and burgers. ***4165 Springs Lane, at the base of the Whistler Gondola. ☎ 604/905-2220. www.restaurants.whistlerblackcomb.com/0/1/Default.aspx?dmdid=22&rid=1387. Map p 178.***

★★ Longhorn Saloon & Grill WHISTLER VILLAGE Whistler's preeminent après-ski destination, the Longhorn is big, loud, and dingy in the best way. There's a wings-and-nachos vibe (though I wouldn't come for the food), with TVs, pool tables, and video games to distract you if the cheap beer and snowboard babes don't. ***4284 Mountain Sq. ☎ 604/932-5999. www.longhornsaloon.ca. Map p 178.***

★ The Mallard Lounge UPPER VILLAGE This very grown-up room in the swanky Fairmont Chateau Whistler is country club all the way, with a big fireplace, sofas and club chairs, and a menu of classic cocktails, Scotch, wine, and "alpine warmers" (including flaming coffee). Outside, three fire pits keep things warm on the Mallard Terrace, nestled beside Blackcomb's slopes. ***4599 Chateau Blvd. ☎ 604/938-8000. www.fairmont.com/whistler/GuestServices/Restaurants/TheMallardLoungeandTerrace.htm. Map p 178.***

★★ Roland's Creekside Pub CREEKSIDE The rarest of commodities in Whistler, Roland's is a real neighborhood bar—cozy, worn around the edges, filled with real locals, and not a hint of pretense. There's a wall full of hockey banners, a pinball machine in the corner, and a good barbecue joint next door. ***2129 Lake Placid Rd. ☎ 604/932-5940. www.rolandswhistler.com. Map p 178.***

Dance Clubs & Live Music

★★ Buffalo Bills Bar and Grill WHISTLER VILLAGE A total party spot, dance club, live music venue, and après-snowboard bar rolled into one. Many nights are themed—some focus on sports, some on DJs, some on variations of "Party!" Weekend

The immense Longhorn Saloon & Grill is where the young and rowdy like to drink beer and shoot pool.

nights are a madhouse. ***4122 Village Green. ☎ 604/932-6613. www.buffalobills.ca. Map p 178.***

★★ **Garfinkels Club** VILLAGE NORTH Another hot Whistler nightspot, Garfinkels focuses on DJ dance nights, plus occasional live bands. It's all about the drinking. I mean the dancing. I mean . . . . ***4308 Main St. ☎ 604/932-2323. www.garfswhistler.com. Map p 178.***

★ **Maxx Fish** WHISTLER VILLAGE A particularly young crowd packs this trendy, urban space for DJ-spun house and hip-hop, dancing, or lounging like wannabe VIPs in the booths. ***4232 Village Stroll. ☎ 604/932-1904. www.maxxfish.moonfruit.com. Map p 178.***

★ **Merlin's** UPPER VILLAGE Sort of a Longhorn (p 181) of the Upper Village, Merlin's is part party bar and part club, with its DJ booth lodged in a retired gondola car. It's family-friendly at lunch and dinner, but things change after 9pm or so. ***4545 Blackcomb Way. ☎ 604/938-7700. www.restaurants.whistlerblackcomb.com/0/1/Default.aspx?dmdid=22&rid=13892. Map p 178.***

★★ **Tommy Africa's Bar** WHISTLER VILLAGE Wait out the long line and pass through the leopard print door, and you'll find a sultry dance club full of Whistler's young and beautiful. In business for more than 20 years, the club has various themed party nights, guest DJs, and special events. ***4216 Gateway Dr. ☎ 604/932-6090. www.tommyafricas.com. Map p 178.***

★ **Village Lounge & Nightclub** WHISTLER VILLAGE This two-story affair features an urban lounge upstairs with occasional live music and a dance club downstairs with DJ, lightshow, and—a Whistler first—unisex restrooms (which gives you an idea of what may go on out on the dance floor). ***4222 Village Sq. ☎ 604/938-3337. www.villagewhistler.ca. Map p 178.***

Movie Theaters

Village 8 Cinemas WHISTLER VILLAGE Current Hollywood fare on eight smallish screens, with a cafe on-site. ***4295 Blackcomb Way. ☎ 604/932-5833. Map p 178.*** ●

The Savvy Traveler

Before You Go

Tourist Office

The **Canadian Tourism Commission** (☎ **604/638-8300;** www.canada.travel); **British Columbia Tourism,** 200 Burrard St., Plaza level (☎ **800/435-5622** or 604/683-2000; www.hellobc.com); and **Tourism Vancouver,** 200 Burrard St., Plaza level (☎ **604/682-2222;** www.tourismvancouver.com), are all useful sources of information, but their mandate is to promote Vancouver, so don't expect a critical eye. Tourism Vancouver's blog, www.insidevancouver.ca, is written by locals and is a good source of up-to-date info on things to do, places to eat, and so forth. The website of **Tourism Whistler,** 4230 Gateway Dr. (☎ **800/944-7853;** www.whistler.com), has decent information on the resort, but it's not as good as the resort's own site, **www.whistlerblackcomb.com**.

The Best Time to Go

Vancouver's prime tourist months are June to September, when the weather is fine, the city's major festivals are in full swing, and Canada Place fills up with cruise ships and their passengers, bound for or returning from Alaska. Hotel rooms are at their priciest during these months, rising to nearly double their off-season rates. Travelers who don't mind a chill in the air and the likelihood of rain can get some great deals during the shoulder months of October and November and March and April, which have their own charm. During April, for example, the city's 36,000 Japanese ornamental cherry trees are in bloom, along with many flowers.

Previous page: Mini passenger ferries are a convenient way to get around Vancouver's False Creek inlet.

In Whistler, the ski season stretches from December until June, with glacier skiing extending through July. From mid-May to mid-October, the resort transforms into the world's premier mountain bike park. Great deals are to be had in the shoulder seasons (May to early June and Oct into early Nov), when you practically have the resort to yourself, even if ski and/or bike conditions may not be optimal.

Festivals & Special Events

JAN The **New Year's Polar Bear Swim** (☎ **604/665-3418;** www.city.vancouver.bc.ca) draws thousands of thick-skinned bathers to the frigid waters of English Bay on Jan 1.

JAN–FEB Make your reservations! **Dine Out Vancouver** (Tourism Vancouver; ☎ **604/683-2000;** www.tourismvancouver.com), held during the last week of January and first week of February, offers foodies the chance to enjoy three-course dinners at more than 180 of Vancouver's best restaurants for between C$18 and C$38.

JAN–FEB The **PuSh International Performing Arts Festival** (☎ **604/605-8284 or 866/608-8284;** www.pushfestival.ca) offers more than 100 original, boundary-pushing theater, dance, music, and hybrid performances over 20 days at various venues.

JAN–FEB Expect firecrackers, dragon parades, and other festivities during **Chinese New Year** (information at Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden; ☎ **604/662-3207;** www.vancouverchinesegarden.com). Celebrations take place throughout Vancouver's Chinatown and the nearby heavily Chinese city of Richmond over the course of 2 weeks. For parade info,

consult the Chinese Benevolent Association website, www.cba vancouver.ca.

FEB Stretching over 2 weeks, **Talking Stick Festival** (www.fullcircle performance.ca) is the year's biggest celebration of First Nations dance, music, theater, and storytelling, both traditional and contemporary. Held at various venues downtown.

FEB The **Vancouver Global ComedyFest** (www.comedyfest.com) brings comedians from Canada and the U.S. for almost 10 days of performances at venues around town.

MAR Stretching over 5 days at midmonth, **CelticFest** (www.celticfest vancouver.com) offers more than 40 music, dance, and other Celtic cultural events at dozens of venues and three downtown stages.

MAR–APR The major wine event in Canada, the **Vancouver Playhouse International Wine Festival** (☎ **604/872-6623;** www.playhouse winefest.com) is a weeklong festival featuring more than 1,600 wines from nearly 200 international wineries. Main tastings take place at the Vancouver Convention Centre, with additional wine-paired dinners and other events at many venues around town. Dates vary, generally falling in March or April.

APR The **Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival** (www.vcbf.ca) celebrates the flowering of Vancouver's 36,000 Japanese cherry trees with haiku and photo competitions; a concert; a Japan-themed street fair; walking, bike, and trolley tours; and more. It runs most of April.

APR The 10-day **TELUS World Ski & Snowboard Festival** (☎ **604/938-3399;** www.wssf.com), held in Whistler, is the largest snow-sport and music event in North America, with pro ski and snowboard competitions, free daily concerts, free ski and snowboard demos, a dog parade, and more.

MAY On the first Sunday in May, the **Vancouver Marathon** (☎ **604/872-2928;** www.bmovanmarathon.ca), among the largest road races in Canada, attracts more than 12,000 participants.

MAY Fast becoming a local favorite, **Vancouver Craft Beer Week** (www.vancouvercraftbeerweek.com) is 9 days of tastings, paired dinners, and beer-themed events held at more than 70 venues around the city and featuring upward of 55 breweries from around the world.

MAY–SEPT Vancouver's two Asian-styled night markets kick off midmonth and run into September, generally operating Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights. Out in the 'burbs, the **Richmond Summer Night Market** (☎ **604/278-8000;** www.summernightmarket.com) is the largest, with dozens of vendors selling Asian street food and knockoff merchandise. In downtown Vancouver, the **Chinatown Night Market** (☎ **604/682-8998;** www.vcma.shawbiz.ca) is smaller but easier to get to.

JUNE North America's largest dragon boat festival, the **Rio Tinto Alcan Dragon Boat Festival** (☎ **604/688-2382;** www.dragonboatbc.ca) draws more than 180 local and international teams to False Creek for 2 to 3 mid-month days of boat races, plus music, dance, and food.

JUNE–JULY A massive, 10-day event featuring more than 1,800 international jazz and blues players in 400 concerts around the city (many of which are free), the **Vancouver International Jazz Festival** (☎ **604/872-5200;** www.coastaljazz.ca) is a must-see.

JUNE–AUG **Artwalk** (☎ **604/935-8410;** www.artswhistler.com) brings artists from up and down the

Sea to Sky corridor, who exhibit their work in galleries, restaurants, cafes, hotels, and stores around Whistler Village between June 20 and August 31. Self-guided tour maps are available.

JUNE–SEPT **Bard on the Beach** (☎ **604/739-0559;** www.bardonthebeach.org) is one of Vancouver's most beloved festivals, presenting Shakespeare's plays throughout the summer in big tents in beachfront Vanier Park. For more info, see p 113.

JULY Held on July 1, **Canada Day** commemorates the anniversary of Britain's "North America Act," which created the united country of Canada. Canada Place (www.canadaplace.canadaday.ca) has a free all-day celebration with music, dance, cultural events, and fireworks over the harbor. There are also celebrations at Granville Island (p 10, 5) and other Vancouver locations. In Whistler, the festivities include a parade through the village.

JULY A 10-day festival of modern and classical dance, **Dancing on the Edge** (☎ **604/689-0926;** www.dancingontheedge.org) is held at the Firehall Arts Centre and other venues.

JULY Featuring 3 days of international folk music, the **Vancouver Folk Music Festival** (☎ **604/602-9798;** www.thefestival.bc.ca) is held right on the waterfront at Jericho Beach Park (on the West Side) over the second or third weekend in July.

JULY Held over the third or fourth weekend in July, the **Caribbean Days Festival** (☎ **604/515-2400;** www.caribbeandays.ca) presents 2 days of Caribbean food, arts, music, and crafts, plus a parade. It's held in North Vancouver's Waterfront Park, adjacent to the SeaBus terminal at Lonsdale Quay.

JULY The **Whistler Children's Art Festival** (☎ **604/935-8410;** www.artswhistler.com) is a mid-month weekend event in which professional and emerging artists, artisans, and performers do their thing for kids in workshops, performances, and free activities at Whistler Creekside village.

JULY–AUG Held on three non-consecutive nights in late July and early August, the **HSBC Celebration of Light** (☎ **604/641-1293;** www.celebration-of-light.com) sees teams of internationally renowned fireworks designers putting on displays over English Bay. The lavish displays, with impressive finales, are set to music simulcast over radio station SHORE 104.3 FM. Perhaps the defining summer event in Vancouver.

JULY–AUG Every year **Theatre under the Stars** (☎ **877/840-0457;** www.tuts.ca) presents popular musicals (*Bye Bye Birdie, Oklahoma,* and so forth) at dusk in a beautiful outdoor theater in Stanley Park, surrounded by towering firs and hemlocks.

JULY–AUG An annual 2-day festival of Japanese culture near what was once Japantown, the **Powell Street Festival** (☎ **604/739-9388;** www.powellstreetfestival.com) features dance, music, film, visual arts, martial arts demonstrations, craft vendors, and food. It falls either the last weekend of July or first weekend of August.

JULY–AUG Held over a weekend in late July/early August, the **Canadian National BBQ Championship** (www.whistlerblackcomb.com/todo/events) is a major regional barbecue cook-off. It functions as a qualifying event for the American Royal World Championships in Kansas City and the Jack Daniel's World Championship BBQ event in Lynchburg, Tennessee.

AUG Held on the first Sunday in August, the culmination of Gay Pride Week (during which many gay and lesbian nightclubs around the city hold their own celebrations) is the

Gay Pride Parade (☎ **604/687-0955;** www.vancouverpride.ca). It is one of the largest gay pride events in North America, attracting more than 500,000 spectators and participants.

AUG **Live at Squamish** (www.liveatsquamish.com) brings major local and international music acts to the mountain town outside of Vancouver for 2 days of concerts in a bucolic, outdoor setting. Focus is on rock and pop, and past headliners have included Weezer.

AUG The mixed-bag **MusicFest Vancouver** (☎ **604/688-1152**) is 10 days of classical, world, and jazz concerts, including some big-name acts, at various venues around the city.

AUG **Kokanee Crankworx** (www.crankworx.com) is Whistler's biggest mountain bike fest, with 9 days of free-ride competitions and demonstrations, plus music and entertainment.

AUG–SEPT In addition to a great wooden roller coaster, the **Pacific National Exhibition** (☎ **604/253-2311;** www.pne.ca), held on the fairgrounds in East Vancouver, offers livestock demonstrations, rides, midways full of decadent fair food, and nightly concerts with some big-name (if over-the-hill) acts like Kenny Rogers and Hall & Oates. It goes on from mid-August to Labour Day (the first Mon in Sept).

SEPT Held over 2 weeks, the quirky **Vancouver Fringe Festival** (☎ **604/257-0350;** www.vancouverfringe.com) presents more than 500 genre-pushing shows by avant-garde and up-and-coming Canadian and international theater groups in venues both traditional and unexpected on scenic Granville Island.

SEPT Canada's newest jazz festival **Jazz on the Mountain** (www.whistlerjazzfest.com) is held the first weekend in September in Whistler. Big-name musicians like Stanley Jordan perform at the new Whistler Olympic Plaza.

SEPT–OCT Showcasing 300+ films from more than 60 countries over the course of 2 weeks, the **Vancouver International Film Festival** (☎ **604/683-3456;** www.viff.org) is one of the city's major cultural events and among the largest film fests in North America.

OCT The **Diwali Festival** (www.vandiwali.ca) is a weeklong celebration of East Indian culture held at various venues. Expect authentic food, dancing, and music from the city's large and diverse Indian population.

NOV Held early in the month, the **Whistler Cornucopia** (www.whistlercornucopia.com) is a multiday celebration of food and wine, featuring seminars, tastings, winemaker dinners, chef-led farm trips, and after-parties.

DEC Held nightly throughout December, the **Carol Ship Parade of Lights Festival** (☎ **604/878-8999;** www.carolships.org) is a unique floating holiday parade staged in and around Vancouver's harbor. Cruise ships festooned with Christmas lights take passengers out on the water for a lavish holiday meal, music and dancing, and of course plenty of caroling.

DEC The **Whistler Film Festival** (☎ **877/838-3456;** www.whistlerfilmfestival.com) offers 4 days of screenings in early December, showing more than 100 new films.

DEC Every night in December, enjoy the **Festival of Lights** (☎ **604/878-9274;** www.vandusengarden.org) at VanDusen Botanical Garden. You'll be treated to great light displays, plus Santa and some Scandinavian Christmas elves.

AVERAGE MONTHLY TEMPERATURES & RAINFALL

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE
HIGH °F/°C	42/6	46/8	49/9	54/12	61/16	66/19
LOW °F/°C	32/0	34/1	36/2	40/4	46/8	51/11
RAIN IN./CM	6/15	5/12	4/11	3/7.5	2.5/6	2/4.5

	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
HIGH °F/°C	71/22	71/22	65/18	56/13	48/9	43/6
LOW °F/°C	54/12	55/13	50/10	43/6	37/3	33/1
RAIN IN./CM	1.5/3.5	1.5/4	2.5/6.5	4.5/11.5	6.5/17	7/18

DEC For **Bright Nights in Stanley Park** (☎ **604/257-8531;** www.vancouver.ca/parks/events/brightnights), more than two million colored lights are hung from the park's stately fir, hemlock, and cedar forests. A miniature train line takes visitors into the holiday wonderland, complete with choirs, a Santa's village, and elaborate decorations.

The Weather

Like the U.S. Pacific Northwest, **Vancouver** is blessed with near idyllic summers (June-Sept) followed by 8 months of mainly overcast weather, with weeks of continuous drizzle from November to February. Due to the generally mild temperatures, spring comes early, with some buds beginning to show as early as late February. By April, the cherry trees begin to bloom. Unless you're an avid skier—or a fan of damp, grey weather—summer is by far the best time to visit.

Winter temperatures on the slopes in **Whistler** average –5°C (22°F). Average temperatures in the Whistler Valley from May through October range from 16° to 27°C (60°–80°F). Temperatures in **Victoria** are roughly comparable to those in Vancouver, though it gets only half as much rain.

Useful Websites

In addition to the "Information" websites at the top of this chapter, check out the following:

- **www.translink.bc.ca**: Information on Vancouver's public transportation system.
- **www. vancouversun.com**: Website of the *Vancouver Sun,* the city's major daily.
- **http://vancouver.ca/parks**: Information on all the city's parks.
- **www.miss604.com**: Popular local blog with useful info for locals and visitors alike.
- **http://vancouver.ca/engsvcs/transport/cycling**: A guide to cycling in Vancouver, with maps and tips.

Cellphones

Vancouver, Whistler, and Victoria have excellent cellular phone coverage. Phones using CDMA network technology—currently the most common type in use in both Canada and the U.S.—will work in Canada. GSM/GPRS phones—the dominant standard pretty much everywhere else—also work here, thanks to roaming agreements. Check with your provider to see if you'll be hit with any international usage fees.

Car Rentals

Vancouver's walkable enough (and its public transportation extensive enough) that you can get around using taxis, buses, trains, and your own two feet if you so choose. But a car is pretty much essential if you want to get to outlying attractions or get out of town with any sort of expediency.

In addition to rental agencies at the airport, all the major car rental agencies have multiple offices around town.

Getting **There**

By Plane

Visitors arriving by plane touch down at **Vancouver International Airport** (YVR; ☎ **604/207-7077;** www.yvr.ca), located 13km (8 miles) south of downtown Vancouver, across the Fraser River in the neighboring city of Richmond. It's the largest airport on Canada's west coast and is the air hub for both Vancouver and Whistler. All the major car-rental firms have operations here.

Incredibly convenient, the **Canada Line** rail service (www.canadaline.ca) links Vancouver International directly with downtown Vancouver. The trip downtown costs C$8.75 and takes around 25 minutes. The terminus is Waterfront Station, near Canada Place, Gastown, and many downtown hotels. (You can also connect with other SkyTrain lines there.) Alternately, you can take a taxi into the city, with average fares from C$25 to C$30.

By Car

From the U.S., you'll probably take U.S. **Interstate 5** from Seattle, which becomes Hwy. 99 once you cross the Canadian border. (Remember, you'll need your passport.) The 210km (130-mile) drive from Seattle can take as little as 2½ hours. However, delays at the border often add an hour or more to drive time. As you approach Vancouver and cross the Oak Street Bridge, Hwy. 99 becomes Oak Street. Turn left at any major street and continue until you reach Granville Street. Turn right onto Granville and continue across the Granville Street Bridge into downtown.

Travelers coming from other parts of Canada or the eastern U.S. states may take **Trans-Canada Hwy. 1.** From the east, take the Hastings Street exit and turn left at the first light onto Hastings Street (Hwy. 7A), which is adjacent to the PNE fairgrounds. Follow Hastings 6.4km (4 miles) into downtown. When coming to Vancouver from parts north, take exit 13/Taylor Way and cross the Lions Gate Bridge into Vancouver's West End.

U.S. driver's licenses are valid in Canada. Visitors from other countries must acquire an International Driving Permit before renting or driving a car in Canada.

By Train

Amtrak (☎ **800/872-7245;** www.amtrak.com) offers daily service from Seattle, either via train (departing at 6:40am and 5:45pm; 4 hr.) or an Amtrak bus. Tickets cost C$38 to C$57. Trains and buses arrive at **Pacific Central Station,** 1150 Station St. (☎ **800/872-7245**), located just south of Chinatown at Main Street and Terminal Avenue. You can take the SkyTrain from Main St.

Station (1 block from Pacific Central) into downtown or grab a taxi.

By Bus

Greyhound Bus Lines (☎ **800/231-2222;** www.greyhound.ca) offers daily bus service between Vancouver and Seattle (C$28-C$38) and all major Canadian cities. When traveling across the U.S./Canada border, passengers must get off the bus and trundle their bags through Customs. Buses terminate at Pacific Central Station (see "By Train," above for more information).

Getting to Whistler

Travelers with cars can make the 105km (65-mile) 2-hour drive along the **Sea to Sky Highway** from Vancouver to Whistler (p 132), but there are alternatives.

On the cheap end, **Greyhound** (☎ **800/661-8747;** www.greyhound.ca) runs regular limited-stop service between Pacific Central Station (1150 Station St.) and Whistler Village at frequent intervals throughout the day, year-round. The trip takes between 2 and 2¾ hours, and round-trip tickets cost C$52 adults, C$39 kids 2 to 11.

Alternately, Pacific Coach Lines's YVR-**Whistler SkyLynx** (☎ **800/661-1725;** www.pacificcoach.com) travels exclusively between Vancouver (both downtown and the airport) and Whistler. Buses make the trip up to a dozen times a day for around C$50 adults, C$25 kids 5 to 11, one-way.

In summer (approx. May–Sept), the **Whistler Sea to Sky Climb** (☎ **888/687-7245** or 604/606-8460; www.rockymountaineer.com) offers a classic 3-hour rail journey along the oceanfront and into the Whistler mountains, with meals served onboard and commentary from interpretive guides. The standard round-trip fare is C$135 adults, C$95 kids 2 to 11. If you'd prefer to sit in special glass-domed viewing cars, it's C$235 adults, C$165 kids 2 to 11. The train departs from North Vancouver Station, at the corner of Philip Avenue and West 1st Street in North Vancouver. In Whistler, the terminus is at Nita Lake, near Whistler Creekside. Shuttles transport passengers from downtown Vancouver to the station, and from Nita Lake to Whistler Village.

Getting **Around**

By Car

You probably won't need or want a car in either Vancouver or Whistler. True, driving isn't difficult here—British Columbian drivers are very polite—but the city is so walkable that it would be a crime not to explore it on foot. If you arrived by car, park it for the duration and use public transportation to get to your day's starting point unless (a) you're heading out to Vancouver's University of British Columbia for its Museum of Anthropology (p 16, 6) or other nearby attractions; (b) exploring some of the far-flung natural wonders in North and West Vancouver, including Lighthouse Park (p 15, 2); or (c) planning on doing the Sea to Sky Highway tour (p 132). In Whistler, you can walk or take public transportation pretty much everywhere (one exception: You will require a car to get to the beautiful Cheakamus Lake trail head). The vast majority of hotels in Vancouver and Whistler offer guest parking, though this is often pricey.

In Vancouver's Downtown and the West End, parking on major

Place Name Confusion

For whatever reason, Vancouver has lots of duplicate and misleading place names. Take note: Granville Street (p 11, 7) is a different neighborhood entirely from Granville Island (p 10, 5); the West End (p 47) refers to a small, trendy piece of downtown, while the West Side refers to an enormous area stretching from Main Street to the University of British Columbia; and the city of Vancouver is definitely not on Vancouver Island. On the retail front, Canadian Tire is a popular department store, not a car repair shop; and London Drugs is also a large department store, not just a pharmacy. Finally, the huge area known as East Vancouver is not precisely defined but generally embraces most everything east of Main Street.

streets is metered, costing between C$1 and C$6 (yikes!) per hour, depending on the area, from 9am to 10pm daily. Unmetered parking on side streets sometimes requires a residency sticker, so look carefully at signs before parking. Public parking lots are scattered around the city, including at Robson Square and the Pacific Centre mall. Prices range from C$1.50 to C$3.25 per half-hour, with a daily maximum from C$16 to C$23. **EasyPark,** one of the largest parking companies, has an online lot locator at www.easyparkvancouver.com.

On Foot

Central Vancouver is exceptionally walkable, and if you plan your travel to concentrate on certain neighborhoods on certain days, there's no reason you'll need transportation at all except maybe to get there from your hotel. Downtown, the West End, Coal Harbour, Granville Island, Chinatown, Commercial Drive, and portions of Kitsilano and Stanley Park are all places where you'd be doing yourself a disservice if you didn't walk. Up north, Whistler Village was designed to be walked, not driven.

By Public Transportation

Vancouver's **TransLink** system (☎ **604/521-0400;** www.translink.bc.ca) offers excellent service to all sectors of the city via buses, light rail, SkyTrain, and ferry. There are also private ferry services that criss-cross False Creek and are a must-do travel experience. Fares for TransLink are based on a zone system and are the same for buses, SeaBus (the public ferry system), and SkyTrain: A 1-zone fare is C$2.50, 2-zone is C$3.75, and 3-zone is C$5. You can also get a 1-day all-zone pass for C$9. Children 4 years and younger ride for free when accompanied by an adult.

TransLink buses are the most ubiquitous option, offering regular service as well as express routes to more distant destinations like the University of British Columbia. Bus stops are well marked. Note that bus drivers won't make change. For more information, see the "Must-Know Bus Routes" box below.

SkyTrain provides faster transportation, with three lines (the Millennium, Expo, and Canada Lines) covering a total of 69km (43 miles) on their way through downtown and into Vancouver's suburbs. Millennium and Expo provide an excellent

Must-Know Bus Routes

There are so many bus routes around the city that maps and schedules can be very difficult to make sense of at first, so keep the key routes listed below in mind.

Buses 2 and 22: Run the entire length of Burrard Street through Downtown

Bus 5: Runs along Robson Street from Richards, then turns south toward English Bay on Denman Street

Bus 6: Runs the length of Davie Street, from Yaletown to Denman

Bus 7: Runs from Downtown to East Vancouver

Bus 19: Is the bus to Stanley Park, via West Pender and West Georgia Streets

Bus 98 B-Line: Is an express that runs north-south from downtown, following Granville Street all the way south into the suburb of Richmond

Bus 99 B-Line: Is the very useful east-west express that runs from Commercial Drive in East Vancouver along Broadway all the way to the University of British Columbia campus on the West Side

way to get from downtown to Chinatown and Commercial Drive, while Canada Lines cuts through the West Side on its way to the airport. The northern terminus of all three lines is at Waterfront Station.

SeaBus is a ferry service that runs between Waterfront Station and North Vancouver's Lonsdale Quay. It's relatively scenic and fast, completing the crossing in about 10 minutes.

SeaBus and SkyTrain are fully **wheelchair accessible,** and most buses have either low-floor access or are lift-equipped.

In **Whistler, BC Transit** buses (www.bctransit.com/regions/whi) connect all areas of town, running almost 24 hours. Fares are C$2.50 adults, C$2 seniors and students, and free for kids under 5. Exact change is required. Buses have ski and bike racks.

By Taxi

Taxis in Vancouver operate mostly on a radio-call system: Give a call to any of the major companies, tell them where you are, and a cab will show up to get you—usually in less time than it takes to hail a passing cab. Options include **Black Top & Checker Cabs** (☎ **604/731-1111;** www.btccabs.ca), **Yellow Cab** (☎ **604/681-1111;** www.yellowcabonline.com), and **MacLure's** (☎ **604/683-6666;** www.maclurescabs.ca). Cab fares start at C$3.05 (which covers the first 1/13th of a km). Each additional kilometer is C$1.73 more, with a maximum of C$31 per hour. Those fares cover one to four passengers.

The **Vancouver Taxi Fare Finder** (http://vancouver.taxiwiz.com) calculates approximate fares between addresses and major landmarks.

Fast **Facts**

ADDRESSES One quirk in BC addresses is that suite numbers are often listed as part of the street number: For instance, 33–4344 Example St. actually means the building is at 4344, and the business is in suite 33.

ATMs Automated teller machines are at least as ubiquitous in Vancouver as in most major U.S. and European cities, if not more so, and work exactly the same way—though they spit out Canadian dollars and offer French as one of your language options. (Thanks, Quebec.) Machines generally operate on the worldwide **Cirrus** (☎ **800/424-7787;** www.mastercard.com), **PLUS** (☎ **800/843-7587;** www.visa.com), and **Interac** (☎ **416/362-8550;** www.interac.ca) networks, as do most debit cards. Be sure you know your personal identification number (PIN) before you leave home, and be sure your daily withdrawal limit will cover the amount of cash you'll need. Note that ATM fees can be higher for international transactions than for domestic.

BANKING HOURS Banks are generally open Monday to Friday 9:30am to 4:30pm, though some branches have hours on weekends as well.

BIKE RENTALS Vancouver and Whistler are packed with bike rental shops—the former for riding around town and Stanley Park, the latter for trail riding. Near Stanley Park, the most popular outlet is **Spokes,** 1798 W. Georgia St., at Denman ☎ **604/688-5141;** www.spokesbicyclerentals.com), where bikes go for about C$11 per hour or C$33 for a half-day. The city has a website offering information and maps of **bike routes:** www.vancouver.ca/engsvcs/transport/cycling. The **Vancouver Area Cycling Coalition** (☎ **604/878-8222;** www.vacc.bc.ca) is a great resource for advice on routes, local tips, and other info. **TransLink** has a page of information on taking bikes on public transportation, using bike lockers, routes, and so forth, at www.translink.ca/en/Cycling/Bikes-on-Transit.aspx.

Mountain bikes in Whistler tend to be much pricier. Heavy-duty bikes suitable for downhill mountain biking are available from the **Whistler Mountain Bike Park** itself (☎ **604/904-8134;** www.whistlerbike.com), **FanatykCo** (☎ **604/938-9455;** www.fanatykco.com), and several other operators for about C$70 half-day, C$100 full day. Factor in another C$40 to rent all the safety equipment.

BUSINESS HOURS Hours vary by shop, but as a general rule, most open daily around 10am and stay open until at least 6pm. Shops in central sections of Vancouver (along Robson St.) and in malls usually stay open later. Citywide, most are open daily, though some close on Sunday.

CONSULATES & EMBASSIES The **U.S. Consulate** is at 1075 W. Pender St. (☎ **604/685-4311**). The **British Consulate** is at 1111 Melville St., Ste. 800 (☎ **604/683-4421**). The **Irish Consulate** is at 837 Beatty St., 2nd Floor (☎ 604/683-9233). The **Australian Consulate** is at 1075 W. Georgia St., Ste. 2050 (☎ **604/684-1177**). The consulate of **New Zealand** is at 888 Dunsmuir St., Ste. 1200 (☎ **604/684-7388**).

CURRENCY EXCHANGE Currency exchange counters can be found at the airport and at prominent tourist locations, but you'll get a better rate just using ATMs (see above) or going to Vancouver Bullion & Currency Exchange, 800 W. Pender St. (☎ **604/685-1008;** www.vbce.ca). Be sure to check current exchange rates before

your trip via www.xe.com or any of the other major currency trackers.

CUSTOMS U.S. residents will pass through **Canada Border Services** (☎ **800/461-9999** or 204/983-3500; www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca) upon arrival. If you're concerned about items you intend to bring into the country, check the website's "Information for Visitors" section. You'll pass through **U.S. Customs** (☎ **877/CBP-5511;** www.cbp.gov) on departure from Canada, not when landing in the U.S. The standard personal duty-free allowance for U.S. citizens returning from Canada after a stay of more than 48 hours is US$800. There are also limits on the amount of alcoholic beverages (usually 1 liter), cigarettes (1 carton), cigars (100 total, and no Cubans), and other tobacco products you may include in your personal duty-free exemption. **Joint Customs declarations** are possible for family members traveling together. For instance, for a husband and wife with two children, the total duty-free exemption would be US$3,200. Note that most meat or meat products, fruit, plants, vegetables, or plant-derived products will be seized by U.S. Customs agents unless they're accompanied by an import license from a U.S. government agency. For more specifics, visit the **U.S. Customs Service** website (www.customs.gov).

U.K. citizens should visit the **U.K. Customs and Excise** site (www.hmce.gov.uk), Australians should go to the **Australia Customs Service** (www.customs.gov.au), Kiwis should check the **New Zealand Customs Service** (www.customs.govt.nz), and citizens of Ireland should check the **Irish Revenue** site (www.revenue.ie).

DENTISTS Most major hotels have a dentist on call. **Vancouver Centre Dental Clinic,** Vancouver Centre Mall, 11–650 W. Georgia St. (☎ **604/682-1601**), is another option. You must make an appointment. The clinic is open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 8:30am to 5pm, Wednesday 8:30am to 6pm, and Friday 8:30am to 2pm.

DINING Dining is a hot topic in Vancouver, so reservations are recommended for most of the city's restaurants, and are essential at the top-rated spots. Reservation policies vary by restaurant. You'll also want to make reservations for Whistler restaurants during peak seasons.

DOCTORS Hotels usually have a doctor on call. **Ultima Medicentre,** Bentall Centre, 1055 Dunsmuir St. (☎ **604/683-8138**), is a drop-in clinic open Monday through Friday 8am to 5pm.

ELECTRICITY Outlets and voltage (110 volts AC) are the same in Canada as in the United States, so laptops, chargers, hair dryers, and other small appliances from the U.S. will work just fine. Appliances from other countries will require an adapter and/or converter.

EMERGENCIES For emergencies in Vancouver, Whistler, and Victoria, dial ☎ **911.**

EVENT LISTINGS The free weekly newspaper **Georgia Strait** (www.straight.com) publishes each Thursday and is the best source for entertainment listings. **Tourism Vancouver** produces a comprehensive calendar of events at www.cultureinvancouver.com. Their blog **Inside Vancouver** (www.insidevancouver.ca) also has posts on the latest happenings.

FAMILY TRAVEL Vancouver and Whistler are both fantastically kid-friendly. **Tourism Vancouver** offers family-travel tips at http://www.tourismvancouver.com/visitors/things_to_do/family_and_kids.

GAY & LESBIAN TRAVELERS Vancouver has western Canada's largest

gay and lesbian community, and gay marriage has been legal in BC since 2003. The West End is the epicenter of gay and lesbian life in the city, with many nightlife choices along Davie Street.

Clubs, bars, and other social scenes are listed in the biweekly gay/lesbian newspaper ***Xtra! West,*** available at bars, cafes, and businesses throughout the West End. They're also online at www.xtra.ca/public/Vancouver.aspx.

QMUNITY, BC's queer resource center, 1170 Bute St. (☎ **604/684-5307;** www.qmunity.ca), is also a great resource, as are the **Vancouver Pride Society** (www.vancouverpride.ca) and the website **www.gayvancouver.net**.

For Whistler, check **www.gaywhistler.com**.

HOLIDAYS British Columbia has nine statutory holidays throughout the year, when banks, government offices, schools, and some shops are closed: New Year's Day (Jan 1), Good Friday (the Fri before Easter), Victoria Day (the Mon before May 25), Canada Day (July 1), British Columbia Day (first Mon in Aug), Labour Day (first Mon in Sept), Thanksgiving (second Mon in Oct), Remembrance Day (Nov 11), and Christmas (Dec 25).

INSURANCE The cost of travel insurance varies widely, depending on the destination, the cost and length of your trip, your age and health, and the type of trip you're taking. You can get estimates from various providers for medical, accident, and evacuation insurance through **InsureMyTrip.com.** Enter your trip cost and dates, your age, and other information for prices from more than a dozen companies.

Medical Insurance: Most U.S. health plans do not provide coverage outside of the U.S., and the ones that do often require you to pay for services upfront and reimburse you only after you return home. As a safety net, you may want to buy travel medical insurance from providers like **MEDEX Assistance** (☎ **410/453-6300;** www.medexassist.com) or **Travel Assistance International** (☎ **800/821-2828;** www.travelassistance.com).

Trip-Cancellation Insurance: Trip-cancellation insurance typically covers you if you have to back out of a trip (due to illness and so forth), if your travel supplier goes bankrupt, if there's a natural disaster, or if the State Department advises against travel to your destination—which isn't much of a worry for Vancouver. Some plans cover cancellations for any reason. **TravelSafe** (☎ **888/885-7233;** www.travelsafe.com) offers both types of coverage. **Expedia** (www.expedia.com) also offers any-reason cancellation coverage for its air-hotel packages. Other recommended insurers include **Access America** (☎ **866/807-3982;** www.accessamerica.com), **Travel Guard International** (☎ **800/826-4919;** www.travelguard.com), **Travel Insured International** (☎ **800/243-3174;** www.travelinsured.com), and **Travelex Insurance Services** (☎ **888/457-4602;** www.travelex-insurance.com).

Lost-Luggage Insurance: If your luggage is lost, immediately file a lost-luggage claim at the airport, detailing the luggage contents. Most airlines require that you report delayed, damaged, or lost baggage within 4 hours of arrival. On international flights, baggage coverage varies widely for checked bags. Consult your airline for the specifics on their liability. If you plan to check items more valuable than what's covered by the standard liability, see if your homeowner's policy covers your valuables, or get baggage insurance

as part of your comprehensive travel-insurance package.

INTERNET ACCESS Almost all hotels in Vancouver, Whistler, and Victoria now provide some kind of Internet access, either wireless, wired, or via a business center. An increasing number of Vancouver hotels offer free wireless Internet, though many high-end spots still stubbornly charge extra, with fees ranging anywhere from C$15 to C$25 a day. There are also free Wi-Fi hotspots in many locations around town, most commonly coffee shops.

LIQUOR LAWS The legal drinking age is 19. Bars, lounges, and restaurants that serve alcohol all close between midnight and 2am, depending on when they got their liquor license. Government-operated BC Liquor Stores generally offer the lowest prices on a sometimes limited selection of hard liquor, beer, and wine (beer is generally not refrigerated in these stores). Privately owned specialty liquor stores generally offer higher prices but a more varied selection (and, in some cases, cold beer!).

LOST PROPERTY For property lost on city buses, SkyTrain, or SeaBus, contact the **TransLink Lost Property Office** at the Stadium SkyTrain Station, 590 Beatty St. (☎ **604/953-3334**), open Monday through Friday 8:30am to 5pm. For baggage lost at **Vancouver International Airport,** contact the Customer Service Counter in the International Terminal, Departures Level 3 (☎ **604/276-6104**). It's open 9:30am to 5:30pm daily. If your luggage is lost in transit, check in with your airline's baggage agent immediately.

If you lose your passport, contact your country's embassy or consulate immediately (see "Consulates & Embassies," above).

MAIL & POSTAGE Mailing a letter within Canada costs C59¢. To the U.S., it's C$1.03. To all other international destinations, it's C$1.75. The main **Vancouver post office** is at 349 W. Georgia St. (☎ **604/267-1177;** www.canadapost.ca), across from the Public Library at Homer and Hamilton streets. You can also buy stamps at many drugstores and convenience stores. In **Whistler Village,** there's a post office at 4360 Lorimer Rd. (☎ **604/932-5012**).

MONEY Canada's money is denominated the same as U.S. dollars, except its C$1 and C$2 denominations are coins rather than bills. The C$1 coin is known as a "loonie," as it has the image of a common loon on one side. The C$2 coin is known as a "toonie," a pun on "two loonies." For exchange rates, see "Currency Exchange," p 193.

NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES The major newspapers in BC are the ***Vancouver Sun*** (www.vancouversun.com), which publishes Monday through Saturday; the ***Vancouver Province*** (www.theprovince.com), which publishes Sunday through Friday; and the daily ***Victoria Times Colonist*** (www.timescolonist.com). The ***Georgia Straight*** (www.straight.com) is Vancouver's major source for entertainment, arts, and lifestyle news. It publishes every Thursday and is distributed free around the city.

PARKING See "Getting Around: By Car," p 190.

PASSPORTS U.S. citizens traveling to Canada by any means—air, sea, car, bus, train, or on foot—will need a passport but no visa. Ditto for citizens of Great Britain, Australia, Ireland, and New Zealand. If you're a citizen of another country, check the **Canada Border Services Agency** website, www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/travelvoyage, for specific requirements.

For safety, make two photocopies of your passport before leaving home. Take one set with you as a backup (keeping it separate from the original) and leave one at home.

PET-FRIENDLY TRAVEL Tourism Vancouver has a great listing of pet-friendly accommodations and other tips for bringing your pet to the city, at http://www.tourismvancouver.com/visitors/vancouver/travel_tips/pet_friendly.

PHARMACIES Well-known chains in Vancouver include Rexall, London Drugs, Shoppers Drug Mart, and Pharmasave. One centrally located **Rexall** is at 1055 W. Georgia St., at Burrard (☎ **604/684-8204**). There's a **store locator** at http://storelocator.rexall.ca.

POLICE Call ☎ **911** for emergencies.

SAFETY British Columbia is a terribly civil place, so you have little to fear. That said, don't be foolish. Don't leave valuables in your car or unattended in public places, and be alert for sketchy neighborhoods—for instance, the notoriously awful, drug-infested area around West Hastings Street in Vancouver, between Gastown and Chinatown.

SENIOR TRAVELERS Shops, hotels, attractions, and services throughout BC often offer discounts for people 65 and older, with proof of age. Ditto for TransLink, which takes between C75¢ and C$2 off by-zone and day-pass ticket prices for seniors.

SMOKING Smoking is prohibited in public places in British Columbia, including bars, clubs, and restaurants. In Vancouver, smoking is banned at Park Board beaches and parks.

TAXES Goods and services in BC are currently subject to a 12% Harmonized Sales Tax (HST). However, this controversial system is slated to be replaced by an older model in 2013, with different tax rates for food, restaurant meals, and hotel rooms.

TELEPHONES **Dialing within British Columbia** can be tricky. For local calls, you have to use the full 10-digit numbers, with area code. (There are only three area codes in the whole province: 604 for Vancouver and Whistler; 250 for elsewhere; and 778, which generally applies to cellphones.) For long-distance calls, add a 1 in front of the number. **Phoning between the U.S. and Canada** requires no special trick: Just dial 1 plus the area code and local number, as you would between states in the U.S. **To dial other countries** direct from BC, dial the international access code (011), followed by the relevant country code (61 for Australia, 353 for Ireland, 64 for New Zealand, and 44 for the U.K.), and the local number with area code, if applicable. For information on cellphones, see "Cellphones," p 188.

To call BC from outside North America, dial the international access code (00 from the U.K., Ireland, or New Zealand, or 0011 from Australia), the country code (1), and then the local number with area code.

For information on cellphone service, see "Cellphones," above.

TIME ZONE British Columbia is located in the Pacific time zone, 8 hours behind Greenwich Mean Time. The province observes daylight saving time from the second Sunday in March to the first Sunday in November.

TIPPING Customary tipping amounts are slightly more modest in Vancouver, Whistler, and Victoria than in major U.S. cities, with a 15% tip in restaurants and taxis still considered quite adequate. If porters help with your bags at hotels or airports, the usual tip is C$1 per bag (or C$2 if it's heavy).

TOILETS As in many major North American cities, public toilets (known here mainly as washrooms) are sometimes hard to find in Vancouver, though major tower complexes, shopping malls, popular tourist attractions, department stores, and fast-food outlets have them if you look hard enough. The city has also installed a number of free, self-cleaning, space-age toilets around downtown. There's a **map** of the locations at http://vancouver.ca/engsvcs/streets/furniture/toilets.htm.

TOURIST OFFICES The following on-the-ground tourist centers can help with information, maps, suggestions, and booking accommodations: **Vancouver Tourist Info Centre,** 200 Burrard St. near Canada Place ☎ **604/683-2000;** www.tourismvancouver.com); **Whistler Activity and Information Centre,** 4010 Whistler Way, at the Village Bus Loop (☎ **800/944-7853;** www.whistler.com); and **Tourism Victoria Visitor Centre,** 812 Wharf St., near Government Street (☎ **800/663-3883** or 250/953-2033; www.tourismvictoria.com).

TOURS **Vancouver Trolley Company,** 875 Terminal Ave. (☎ **888/451-5581** or 604/801-5515; www.vancouvertrolley.com), offers several different city tours on buses designed to look like vintage San Francisco–style trolleys. Their hop-on, hop-off City Attractions Tour loops through downtown, Stanley Park, Chinatown, Gastown, and Granville Island. You can get on and off at your leisure at any of 30 stops. Tickets are C$38 adults, C$20 kids (free for kids under 4), and are available on the trolley (but book online and you get a second day of touring for free). City tours run daily 9am to about 5pm. Another company, the **Big Bus** (☎ **877/299-0701;** www.bigbus.ca), offers a similar (and similarly priced) tour via their big red, partially open-topped buses with the Union Jack on the side. They run daily 9am to about 5pm.

The Big Bus also offers tours in **Victoria** (☎ **888/434-2229;** www.bigbusvictoria.ca) for C$29 adults, C$15 kids 6 to12.

In Vancouver, **Harbour Cruises** (☎ **604/688-7246;** www.boatcruises.com) offers 1-hour boat tours of Burrard Inlet from May through September, concentrating on the working port and areas around Stanley Park. Ferries depart from a dock in Coal Harbor, near the foot of Denman Street. Tickets are C$30 adults, C$25 seniors and teens, C$10 kids 5 to 11. It runs two to four times per day.

TRAVELERS WITH DISABILITIES Vancouver is known as a particularly accessible city, with accommodations for wheelchairs built into most public transportation, as well as at attractions and other recreational sites. **SkyTrain, SeaBus,** and B-Line express **buses** are fully wheelchair accessible. Most other Vancouver-area buses have either low floor access or are equipped with lifts. For more information, see http://www.translink.ca/access. If you'd prefer a taxi, **Yellow Cab** (☎ **604/681-1111;** www.yellowcabonline.com) will send a wheelchair-accessible cab by request.

Tourism Vancouver's **Accessible Vancouver** page, http://www.tourismvancouver.com/visitors/vancouver/travel_tips/accessibility, has information on transportation, resources, and other tips.

WEIGHTS & MEASURES Canada uses the metric system, just like pretty much everybody in the world besides the U.S. Just remember: 1km=.62 mile, 1 liter=.26 gallon, 1 kilogram = 2.2 pounds, and Celsius temperatures are based on 0 being the freezing point (in Fahrenheit measurement, it's 32).

A Brief **History**

16,000–11,000 B.C. The ancestors of the Coast Salish people arrive from Asia and like what they see, establishing a presence on English Bay.

1592–1774 Juan de Fuca finds Vancouver during his second voyage of exploration in search of the Northwest Passage. Spain subsequently claims the whole west coast of North America.

1778 Captain James Cook arrives during his third voyage of exploration to the Pacific.

1792 Englishman Captain George Vancouver arrives aboard the HMS *Discover,* sailing right into the Burrard Inlet.

1808 Explorer and fur trader Simon Fraser arrives from Eastern Canada via the river that now bears his name.

1827 The Hudson's Bay Company builds a trading post on the Fraser River, marking the first permanent, non-native settlement in the Vancouver area.

1858 Some 25,000 prospectors begin arriving after a gold strike is reported on the banks of the Fraser.

1867 Barkeep "Gassy Jack" Deighton opens a saloon on the shore of Burrard Inlet, catering to the area's loggers and trappers. The area around the bar comes to be called Gastown.

1884 The Canadian Pacific Railway moves its terminal from the head of Burrard Inlet to the Granville area.

1886 Granville is re-incorporated as the City of Vancouver. On June 13, a fire burns the new city to the ground in less than 30 minutes. Soon after, the city incorporates its first fire department.

1887 The first transcontinental Canadian-Pacific train arrives in Vancouver. It's pulled by Engine 374, which is today displayed at the Roundhouse in Yaletown (p 29, 16).

1889 The first Granville Street bridge is completed.

1890 The first lighthouse is built at Brockton Point, in what is today Stanley Park. Electric streetcars also begin operating in town.

1898 The Nine o'clock Gun is placed at Brockton point, functioning first as a signal cannon to alert fishermen and later as a 9pm signal by which Vancouverites and sailors could set their watches. Some still do.

1900 Vancouver surpasses BC capital Victoria in size.

1909 Vancouver's first skyscraper, the beautiful Dominion Building, opens at Hastings and Cambie streets.

1915 The University of British Columbia opens.

1938 The Lions Gate Bridge is completed, connecting the Downtown peninsula with North Vancouver.

1939 The landmark Hotel Vancouver—now the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver (p 125)—is completed.

1953 Vancouver's first TV station, CBUT, makes its debut.

1963 The Port of Vancouver ships more tonnage than any other Canadian port.

1970 The Vancouver Canucks play their first game in the National Hockey League, losing to the Los Angeles Kings.

1971 The pedestrian seawall at Stanley Park opens, and the Provincial Government names Gastown and Chinatown historic districts.

1983 BC Place Stadium opens with the world's largest air-supported dome as a roof, with 60,000 seats underneath. In 2011, that roof was replaced by a retractable model.

1985 SkyTrain makes its first rounds.

1986 The 6-month Expo 86 marks Vancouver's centennial. It's the largest World's Fair ever staged in North America.

1990s Before the handover of Hong Kong to China, tens of thousands of Chinese immigrate to metro Vancouver, radically changing the area's demographics.

1990s–2000s Vancouver becomes a major hub of Hollywood film production, working as a stand-in for other North American cities. It eventually earns the nickname "Hollywood North."

2002 The *Economist* magazine's Intelligence Unit names Vancouver one of the world's best cities to live in, tied with Melbourne for No. 1. Vancouver enjoys the No. 1 spot for the better part of the next decade.

2010 Vancouver hosts the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, in which Canada wins more gold medals than any other country (including a gold in men's hockey).

Toll-Free Numbers & Websites

Airlines

AIR CANADA
☎ *888/247-2262*
www.aircanada.ca

ALASKA AIRLINES
☎ *800/252-7522*
www.alaskaair.com

AIR NEW ZEALAND
☎ *800/663-5494*
☎ *0800/737-000 in New Zealand*
www.airnewzealand.com

AMERICAN AIRLINES
☎ *800/433-7300*
www.aa.com

BRITISH AIRWAYS
☎ *800/247-9297*
☎ *0844/493 0787in the U.K.*
www.britishairways.com

DELTA AIR LINES
☎ *800/221-1212*
www.delta.com

FRONTIER AIRLINES
☎ *800/432-1359*
www.frontierairlines.com

QANTAS
☎ *800/227-4500*
☎ *612/131313 in Australia*
www.qantas.com

UNITED AIRLINES
☎ *800/864-8331*
www.united.com

US AIRWAYS
☎ *800/428-4322*
www.usairways.com

WESTJET
☎ *888/937-8538*
www.westjet.com

Index

See also Accommodations and Restaurant indexes, below.

A

A Baker's Dozen Antiques, 70
Abkhazi Garden (Victoria), 140
Access Gallery, 29
Accommodations, 122–130. *See also* Accommodations Index
  best, 124
  Victoria, 141
  Whistler, 173–177
Addresses, 193
Adventure Zone, 155
Ainsworth Custom Design, 75
Air travel, 189
Alberni Street, 47
Alexandra Park, 48
The Alibi Room, 55, 103
Alice Lake, 134
A-maze-ing Laughter, 48
Amsterdam Cafe Pub (Whistler), 180
Antique Market Warehouse, 70
Antiques, 70–71
Aquarium, Vancouver, 6, 37, 41, 87
Armchair Books (Whistler), 163
Art and architecture, 24–31
Art galleries, 6, 29–31
  Brackendale, 134
  First Nations art, 74–75
  Whistler, 162
Artisan Sake Maker, 34
Arts and entertainment, 110–120
  best, 112
  classical music and opera, 116–118
  comedy, 114
  dance, 118
  popular music, 115–116
  spectator sports, 118–120
  theater, 113–114
Arts Club Theatre Company, 112, 113
Artspeak, 29
ArtStarts, 29
Artwalk, 185–186
Ashram Spa (Whistler), 158
Atmosphere, 78
ATMs (automated-teller machines), 193
Audiopile, 77
AXA Place building, 26

B

Bacchus Restaurant & Piano Lounge, 107
Backcountry skiing, 147
The Backstage Lounge, 103, 115
Bald eagles, Brackendale, 134
Ballet British Columbia, 118
Bamboo Village, 55, 73
Banking hours, 193
Bao Bei, 56
Barbara Jo's Books to Cooks, 34, 71
Bard on the Beach, 112, 113, 186
Bar None, 108
Bars
  Vancouver
    casual, 103–106
    gay, 107–108
    lounges and cocktail bars, 107
    wine bars, 106–107
  Whistler, 180–181
Basquiat, 73
The Bay, 76
BC Lions, 118–120
BC Place Stadium, 57
Beaches, 83, 87, 88
Beacon Hill Park, 138
Beaver Lake, 87
Benthell 5, 26
Bernstein & Gold, 75
Bibliophile Bookshop, 71
The Big Bus, 198
Big Sky Golf and Country Club, 153
Bike rentals, 9, 193
Biking, 9. *See also* Mountain biking
Billiards, 103
The Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art, 27, 51
Bird-watching, 88
Birk's, 76
Blackcomb. *See* Whistler Blackcomb
Blackcomb Aviation Helicopter Tours, 158–159
Blackcomb Base Adventure Zone, 155
Black Tusk Gallery (Whistler), 162
The Bloedel Conservatory, 21–22, 81
Boardroom, 77
Boat tours and cruises, 46
Boneyard Slopestyle Park, 152
Bookstores, 71, 163
Bowling, 103
Brackendale Art Gallery, 134
Brackendale bald eagles, 134
Brandywine Falls, 135
Bright Nights in Stanley Park, 188
Britannia Mine Museum, 133
Broadway Camera, 72
Brockton Point Totem Poles, 85–86
Buffalo Bills Bar and Grill (Whistler), 181
Burrard Street, architectural landmarks, 26
Burrard Street Bridge, 62–63
Business hours, 193
Bus travel, 190–192
Butchart Gardens (Victoria), 6, 140
Byrnes, George, 54

C

Caffè Artigiano, 27
Callaghan Valley, 159
Cambie Street Bridge, 64
Canada Day, 186
Canada Place, 46, 186
Canadian kitsch, 72
  Whistler, 163
Canadian National BBQ Championship, 186
Canadian Pacific Railway, 53
Canopy walks, 157
Can-Ski (Whistler), 164
Capilano Suspension Bridge, 82
Caprice Nightclub, 108
Caribbean Days Festival, 186
Carol Ship Parade of Lights Festival, 187
Carr, Emily, 11
Car rentals, 189
Car travel, 189, 190–191
Cascade Room, 107
Castro's Cuban Cigar Store (Whistler), 163
Celebrities, 108
Cellar Jazz Cafe, 112, 115
Cellphones, 188
CelticFest, 185

Centre in Vancouver for the Performing Arts, 117
Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, 117
Charleson Park, 64
Chateau Whistler Golf Club, 154
Cherry Blossom Festival, 185
Chinatown
  Vancouver, 16
    neighborhood walk, 52–59
    shopping, 55, 58
  Victoria, 139
Chinatown Millennium Gate, 57
Chinatown Night Market, 185
Chinatown Trading Company (Victoria), 139
Chinese goods, 73
Chinese New Year, 184–185
Chinese Tea Shop, 55
Christ Church Cathedral, 51, 117
Cigar Connoisseurs, 74
Cigars and tobacco, 74
  Whistler, 163
Cinemas, 114, 115
Cinnamon Bear Bar (Whistler), 180
Circle Craft Co-Operative, 75–76
City Cigar Emporium, 74
Climate, 188
Clothing, 73–74
Cloud Nine, 107
Coal Harbour, 12
  neighborhood walk, 44–51
Coal Harbour Park, 45
Coal Harbour Seawall, 45–46
Coastal Peoples Fine Arts Gallery, 74
Coca-Cola Tube Park, 149
Comedy, 114
The Comedy MIX, 114
Comfortably Numb, 153
Commerce Place/CIBC building, 26
Commercial Drive, 20, 69
Commodore Ballroom, 112, 115
Commodore Lanes Bowling & Billiards, 103
Comor, 77
CoMor (Whistler), 164
Consulates, 193
Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver, 28
Convention Centre West Building, 12
Cottage Bistro, 112, 116
Cow's (Whistler), 163–164
Craigdarroch Castle (Victoria), 140
Creekside Market (Whistler), 164
The Cross, 76
Cross Country Connection (Whistler), 149
Cross-country skiing, 148, 159
Crystal Lounge (Whistler), 180
Currency exchange, 193–194
Customs regulations, 194

D

Dance clubs/nightclubs, 108
Dance performances, 118
Dancing on the Edge Festival, 118, 186
DAVIDsTEA (Whistler), 165
Davie Street, 49
Day spas, Whistler Blackcomb, 158
Deighton, Gassy Jack, statue of, 54
Denman Street, 5, 9, 48
Dentists, 194
Devonian Harbour Park, 45
Dine Out Vancouver, 184
Dining, 5, 90–98. *See also* Restaurant Index
  best, 92
    Whistler, 167
  Dine Out Vancouver, 184
  reservations, 194
  Whistler, 167–171
Disabilities, travelers with, 198
Diwali Festival, 187
Doctors, 194
Dog Beach, 61
Doolin's, 103
Douglas Reynolds Gallery, 31, 74
Downhill skiing, Whistler, 146–147
Downtown neighborhood walk, 44–51
Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Garden, 5, 16, 56
Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Park, 56
Dragon Boat Festival, Rio Tinto Alcan, 185
Dubh Linn Gate Irish Pub (Whistler), 180
Dusty's Bar & BBQ (Whistler), 180

E

Eagle Run, 134
Eagle Spirit Gallery, 31, 75
Edible British Columbia, 33
Edie Hats, 73
Electricity, 194
1181, 107–108
Embassies, 193
Emergencies, 194
Emery Barnes Park, 28
Emily Carr University of Art + Design, 30
Engine 374, 30, 59
English Bay Beach, 9–10, 48
Entertainment. *See* Nightlife
Entertainment listings, 194
Equinox Gallery, 31
Erickson, Arthur, 5, 13
Erickson Building, 30

F

The Fairmont Empress (Victoria), 137
The Fairmont Hotel Vancouver, 12, 47
False Creek ferries, 10
False Creek Fisherman's Wharf, 34, 63
False Creek Seawall, 64
Families with children, 36–39, 194
  Blackcomb Base Adventure Zone, 155
  Whistler Children's Art Festival, 186
FanatykCo Ski and Cycle (Whistler), 164
Fan Tan Alley (Victoria), 139
Ferries, Victoria, 139
Festival of Lights, 187
Festivals and special events, 184–188
Fifty Two 80 Bistro and Bar (Whistler), 180–181
Film Festival
  Vancouver International, 112, 114, 187
  Whistler, 187
Firehall Arts Centre, 113, 118
First Nations, 38. *See also* Totem poles
  art, 74–75
  Royal British Columbia Museum (Victoria), 138
  Talking Stick Festival, 185
Fisherman's Wharf (Victoria), 138
Fisherman's Wharf, False Creek, 34

Food and cuisine, 33–35. *See also* Restaurants
Canadian National BBQ Championship, 186
night markets, 185
Whistler Cornucopia, 187
Fortune Sound Club, 108
4th Avenue, 61, 69
Front and Company, 73

G

Galleries, 29–31
Gallery Gachet, 29
Gallery Row, 20
Garfinkels Club (Whistler), 182
Garibaldi Lift Co. Bar and Grill (Whistler), 181
Garibaldi Provincial Park, 135, 155
Gastown, 4, 13, 42
neighborhood walk, 52–59
Gate of Harmonious Interest (Victoria), 139
Gay bars and clubs, 107–108
Gay Pride Parade, 187
Gay Pride Week, 186–187
Gays and lesbians, 49, 194–195
George Lounge, 107
Georgia Strait, 194
Girl in a Wetsuit (sculpture), 86
Golf, 153–154, 159
Gotham Cocktail Bar, 107
Granville Island, 10, 63–64, 69
art galleries, 30–31
neighborhood walk, 60–64
Granville Island Brewery, 33–34
Granville Island Brewing Co. Taproom, 103–104
Granville Island Brewing Company, 63
Granville Island Kids Market, 39
Granville Island Public Market, 4, 10, 30, 33, 76
Granville Island Stage, 113
Granville Street, 11, 28, 50
Gravity Pope Shoes, 73
Greenheart Canopy Walkway, 82
The Grocery Store (Whistler Grocery), 164
Grouse Grind, 82
Grouse Mountain, 6, 15, 82
Grunt Gallery, 29
Guu with Otokomae, 104

H

Harbour Air, 139
Harbour Centre, 53
Harbour Cruises, 46
Harbour Green Park, 45
Hastings Racecourse, 112, 119
The Hat Gallery (Whistler), 163
Haywood Bandstand gazebo, 48
Helicopter tours, Whistler Blackcomb, 158–159
Helly Hansen (Whistler), 165
Highlife Records & Music, 77
Hiking
Garibaldi Provincial Park, 135
Whistler area, 154–155
Hills Native Art, 75
HMV, 77
Hockey, 119, 120
Holidays, 195
Hop-On, Hop-Off Shuttle Bus, 86
Horse-drawn carriage rides, 85
Horse racing, 119
Horseshoe Bay, 133
Horstman Glacier, 153
Hotel Europe, 54
Hotels, 122–130. *See also* Accommodations Index
best, 124
Victoria, 141
Whistler, 173–177
H.R. MacMillan Space Centre, 38, 62
HSBC Celebration of Light, 186
Hudson House Trading Co., 72
Hudson's Bay Co., 41–42

I

Ice climbing, 148
Ice cream, Whistler, 163–164
IMAX theater
Canada Place (Vancouver), 46
Royal British Columbia Museum (Victoria), 138
Inner Harbour (Victoria), 138
Insurance, 195
Internet access, 196
Inuit Gallery of Vancouver, 75
The Inukshuk (sculpture), 48–49
The Irish Heather, 13, 42, 103, 105

J

Jacana Gallery, 31
Jazz Festival, Vancouver International, 115, 185
Jazz on the Mountain, 187
Jennifer Kostuik Gallery, 29
Jewelry, 76
John Fluevog Boots & Shoes, 74

K

Keefer Bar, 56, 104
Keefer Street, 56, 58
Kidsbooks, 71
Kids Market, 77
Kits Beach, 61
Kitsilano, 19
neighborhood walk, 60–64
Kitsilano Beach, 19
Kitsilano Beach and Pool, 38–39
Kitsilano Pool, 61
Kiu Shun Trading Co., 55, 73
Kokanee Crankworx (Whistler), 187
Kuomintang Building (Nationalist League building), 55

L

Land of Light, 30
Laurel Point Park (Victoria), 138
Legacy Liquor Store, 78
The Legislative Assembly (Victoria), 137
The Lennox Pub, 104
Leo's Camera Supply, 72
Les Amis du Fromage, 34
Library Square, 58
Lighthouse Park, 6, 15, 88
Lighthouse Viewpoint, 88
Lions Gate Bridge, 87
Liquor laws, 196
Live at Squamish, 187
Longhorn Saloon & Grill (Whistler), 181
Lost Lagoon, 88
Lost Lake, 149
Lost Lake Park (Whistler), 148, 149
Lost Lake Trail, 155
Lost-luggage insurance, 195–196
Lost property, 196
The Love Nest, 162
Lumbermen's Arch, 87
Lynn Canyon Suspension Bridge, 82

M

MacLeod's Books, 71
Mail and postage, 196
The Main on Main, 104, 116
Main Street, 20
  shopping, 69, 70
Maiwa Handprints, 74
The Mallard Lounge (Whistler), 181
Maple Tree Square, 54
Marathon, Vancouver, 185
Marina, Yaletown, 59
Marine Building, 26, 46
Marion Scott Gallery, 75
Maritime Museum of British Columbia (Victoria), 139
Marketplace IGA (Whistler), 164–165
Marquis Wine Cellars, 78
Maxx Fish (Whistler), 182
Merlin's (Whistler), 182
Metropolis at Metrotown, 77
Michelle's Import Plus, 72
Ming Wo Cookware, 76
Miniature Train, 37–38
Mole Hill, 50
Monte Clark Gallery, 31
Mountain biking, Whistler Blackcomb, 152
  Kokanee Crankworx (Whistler), 187
  rentals, 193
Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC), 42, 78
Mounted Police Post, 72
Museum of Anthropology, UBC, 4, 16–17
MusicFest Vancouver, 187
Music stores, 77–78

N

Nat Bailey Stadium, 112, 119
Nationalist League building (Kuomintang Building), 55
Neighborhood walks, 44–64
  Coal Harbour, Downtown, and the West End, 44–51
  Gastown, Chinatown, and Yaletown, 52–59
  Kitsilano, Granville Island, and Olympic Village, 60–64
The Net Loft Building, 73
Newspapers and magazines, 196
New Town Bakery & Restaurant, 16
New Year, Chinese, 184–185
The New Year's Polar Bear Swim, 184
Nicklaus North (Whistler Blackcomb), 154
Nightlife, 100–108
  bars. *See* Bars
  best, 102
  dance clubs/nightclubs, 108
  Whistler, 179–182
Night markets, 185
900 West Lounge, 106–107
9 O'Clock Gun, 86
Nitobe Memorial Garden, 17, 82, 83
The North Face (Whistler), 165
North Shore Mountains, 5

O

Old Town (Victoria), 138–139
Olympic Cauldron at Canada Place, 12, 26, 46
Olympic Village, 64
  neighborhood walk, 60–64
Olympic Winter Games (2010), 159
Orca Spirit Adventures (Victoria), 142
Or Gallery, 29
Orling & Wu, 76
Orpheum Theatre, 117
Outdoor activities, 80–88. *See also specific activities*
  West Side parks and gardens, 81–83
  Whistler Blackcomb, 146–149
Outdoor and sporting gear, 78

P

Pacific Boarder, 77
Pacific Centre Mall, 77
Pacific Cinematheque, 114
Pacific Coach Lines, 139
Pacific National Exhibition, 187
Pacific Spirit Regional Park, 83
Paleface Trail, 155
Passports, 196–197
The Peak 2 Peak Gondola (Whistler Blackcomb), 146, 155
Peking Lounge, 73
Pendulum Gallery, 27
People's Co-Op Bookstore, 71
Pet-friendly travel, 197
Pharmacies, 197
Picnic, 6
Playhouse Theatre Company, 114
The Plaza Galleries (Whistler), 162
Point Atkinson Lighthouse, 88
Police, 197
Powell Street Festival, 186
Prince of Whales (Victoria), 142
Prospect Point Lookout, 87
Provincial Law Courts, 50
Public Market, Granville Island, 4, 10, 30, 33, 76
Pulpfiction Books, 71
Punjabi Market (aka Little India), 22, 69
The PuSh International Performing Arts Festival, 184

Q

Queen Elizabeth Park, 21, 81
Queen Elizabeth Theatre, 117, 118

R

Railspur Alley Artist Studios/Galleries, 31
The Railway Club, 104, 112, 116
Rainy-day activities, 40–42
Rattenbury, Francis, 11, 47, 51, 138
Raw Canvas, 29, 106
Red Cat Records, 77–78
Reid, Bill, 5, 49
  The Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art, 51
Republic, 108
Restaurants, 5, 90–98. *See also* Restaurant Index
  best, 92
    Whistler, 167
  Dine Out Vancouver, 184
  reservations, 194
  Whistler, 167–171
Richmond Summer Night Market, 185
Rio Tinto Alcan Dragon Boat Festival, 185
River rafting, 153
Robson Square, 28, 50
Robson Street, 11, 47, 69
Roden Gray, 74
Roedde House Museum, 47
Rogers Arena, 119
Roland's Creekside Pub (Whistler), 181

Roots (Whistler), 163
The Roundhouse, 29–30, 59
Royal British Columbia Museum (Victoria), 137–138
Ruby Tuesday (Whistler), 163

S
St. Roch (schooner), 62
Saunders, Raymond L., 54
Scandinave Spa (Whistler), 158
Science World at Telus World of Science, 39
Score on Davie, 108
Scotiabank Dance Centre, 112
Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver, 114
SeaBus, 192
Sea otters, 6
Seasons, 184
Sea to Sky Highway, 132–135
Second Beach, 88
Second Time Around Antiques, 70
Senior travelers, 197
The Shangri-La, 26, 47
Shannon Falls, 134
Shark Club Bar & Grill, 105
Shoes, 73–74
Shopping, 66–78
  antiques, 70–71
  best, 66, 68
  bookstores, 71
  cameras, 72
  Canadian kitsch, 72
  Chinese goods, 73
  cigars and tobacco, 74
  clothing, shoes, and accessories, 73–74
  First Nations art, 74–75
  gifts, housewares, and knickknacks, 75–76
  jewelry, 76
  markets, malls, and department stores, 76–77
  music stores, 77–78
  neighborhoods, 69
  outdoor and sporting gear, 78
  Whistler Blackcomb, 161–165
  wines, 78
Showcase, 77
Sino Himalayan Garden, 22
Siwash Rock, 87
Six Acres, 105
Skateboarding, 77
Skiing
  downhill (Whistler Blackcomb), 146–147
  season, 184
  summer, 153
  TELUS World Ski & Snowboard Festival, 185
SkyTrain, 191–192
Small Boat Repair Dock, 62
Smoking, 197
Snowboarding, 77
  summer, 153
  TELUS World Ski & Snowboard Festival, 185
  Whistler Blackcomb, 146–147
Snowshoeing, 149
South Granville Rise, 19–20, 69
South Granville's Gallery Row, 31
Spa at Four Seasons Resort (Whistler), 158
Spanish Banks, 83
Special events and festivals, 184–188
Spectator sports, 118–120
Spirit Wrestler Gallery, 75
Squamish, 134
Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre, 157–158
Stanley Park, 9, 84–87
  special events, 186, 188
Stanley Park Seawall, 4, 9, 85
Stawamus Chief, 134
The Steam Clock, 54
Steamworks Brewpub, 105
Street Light sculpture, 59
Summit Ski Bike Board (Whistler), 165
Sunken Garden (Victoria), 140
Sunset Beach Seawall, 49
Sun Tower, 57
Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Garden, 5, 16, 56
Sylvia Hotel cocktail lounge, 48
Sylvia's Bar, 105

T
Talking Stick Festival, 185
Taxes, 197
Taxis, 192
Tea, Whistler, 165
Telephones, 197
TELUS World Ski & Snowboard Festival, 185
Theater, 113–114
Theatre Under the Stars, 114, 186
Third Beach, 87
Tiki Lounge at the Waldorf Hotel, 107
Time zone, 197
Tipping, 197
Toilets, 198
Tommy Africa's Bar (Whistler), 182
Totem poles, 9, 17, 27, 85–87, 139
Tourist offices, 184, 198
Tours, 198
Trading Post at Whistler, 163
Train travel, 189–190
TransLink, 191
Transportation, public, 191–192
Trip-cancellation insurance, 195
Tubing, 149

U
UBC Botanical Garden, 82
UBC Museum of Anthropology, 4, 16–17
The Umbrella Shop, 74
The Upper Village (Whistler), 147

V
Valley Trail System, 155
Vancity International Film Centre, 112
Vancity Theatre, 114
Vancouver Aquarium, 6, 37, 41, 87
Vancouver Architectural Antiques, 71
Vancouver Art Gallery, 11–12, 41, 51
Vancouver Art Gallery Shop, 76
Vancouver Bach Choir, 112, 116
Vancouver Canadians, 120
Vancouver Cantata Singers, 116–117
Vancouver Canucks, 112, 119
Vancouver Chamber Choir, 117
Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival, 185
Vancouver Contemporary Art Gallery, 28
Vancouver Convention Centre, 26
Vancouver Craft Beer Week, 185
Vancouver Folk Festival, 115

Vancouver Folk Music Festival, 186
Vancouver Fringe Festival, 187
Vancouver Giants, 120
Vancouver Global ComedyFest, 185
Vancouver International Film Festival, 112, 114, 187
Vancouver International Jazz Festival, 115, 185
The Vancouver Lookout, 53
Vancouver Marathon, 185
Vancouver Maritime Museum, 62
The Vancouver Museum, 62
Vancouver Opera, 112, 118
Vancouver Playhouse, 117
Vancouver Playhouse International Wine Festival, 185
Vancouver Police Museum, 42, 54–55
Vancouver Public Library, 27, 58
Vancouver Rowing Club, 85
Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, 118
Vancouver TheatreSports League, 112, 115
Vancouver Trolley Company, 198
Vancouver Whitecaps, 119, 120
VanDusen Botanical Gardens, 22, 81
VanDusen maze, 22
Vanier Park, 61–62
Variety Kids Water Park, 38, 86–87
Victoria, 6, 136–142
Village 8 Cinemas (Whistler), 182
Village Lounge & Nightclub (Whistler), 182
Village Stroll (Whistler), 147
Visitor information, 184, 194, 198

W

Walking, 191
Wanderlust, the Traveler's Store, 72
Waterfront Station, 53
Water Street, 53–54, 70
Weather, 188
Websites, useful, 188
Weights and measures, 198
The West End neighborhood walk, 44–51
West Side parks and gardens, 81–83
Whale-watching, Victoria, 142
Wheelchair accessibility, 198
Whistler Blackcomb, 6, 144–182
  accommodations, 173–177
  all-weather attractions and activities, 157–159
  nightlife and entertainment, 179–182
  outdoor activities, 146–152
    best summer activities, 152–155
  restaurants, 167–171
  ski season, 184
  traveling to, 190
  walking around, 147
Whistler Children's Art Festival, 186
Whistler Cornucopia, 187
Whistler Creekside, 147
Whistler Film Festival, 187
Whistler Golf Club, 154
Whistler Mountain Bike Park, 152
Whistler Olympic Park, 148
Whistler Olympic Plaza, 159
Whistler's Athletes Village, 159
Whistler's Creekside Market, 164
Whistler Sliding Centre, 149, 159
Whistler Valley Bike Trails, 152–153
Whistler Village, 135, 147
Whistler Village Art Galleries, 162
Whytecliff Park, 133
Wildplay Elements Parks, 157
Willow Stream at Fairmont Pacific Rim, 124, 126
Wine bars, 106–107
Wines, 78
  Vancouver Playhouse International Wine Festival, 185
Wreck Beach, 17, 84

Y

Yaletown, 10–11, 58
  neighborhood walk, 52–59
Yaletown Brewing Company, 105–106
Yaletown Marina, 59
Yaletown Warehouse District, 29
Yew restaurant + bar, 106

Z

Ziplining, 15, 158
Ziptrek Ecotours, 157
Zulu Records, 78

Accommodations

Aava Whistler Hotel, 174
Abigail's Hotel (Victoria), 141
Blue Horizon, 124, 125
Coast Coal Harbour Hotel, 125
Coast Plaza Hotel & Suites, 125
Crystal Lodge, 174
Delta Vancouver Suites, 125
Delta Whistler Village Suites, 174
Fairmont Chateau Whistler, 174
Fairmont Empress (Victoria), 141
Fairmont Hotel Vancouver, 124, 125
Fairmont Pacific Rim, 124, 126
First Tracks Lodge, 174
Four Seasons, 124, 126
Four Seasons Resort Whistler, 173, 175
Georgian Court Hotel, 126
Granville Island Hotel, 126
Hilton Whistler Resort & Spa, 173, 175
Hostelling International, 173
Hostelling International Whistler, 175
Hyatt Regency Vancouver, 124, 126
Inn at Laurel Point, 141
Keefer Suites, 127
Le Chamois Whistler, 173, 175–176
Legends Whistler, 176
Le Soleil Hotel & Suites, 127
Listel Hotel, 124, 127
Loden Vancouver, 127
Metropolitan Hotel Vancouver, 127–128
Moda Hotel, 124, 128
Nita Lake Lodge, 173, 176
"O Canada" House, 128
Opus Hotel, 128
Pan Pacific Hotel Vancouver, 124, 128
Pan Pacific Whistler Mountainside, 173, 176
Pinnacle International Resort, 176

Rosedale on Robson, 129
Rosewood Hotel Georgia, 124, 129
Shangri-La, 124, 129
Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel, 129–130
St. Regis, 130
Sundial Boutique Hotel, 173, 177
Sutton Place Hotel, 124, 130
Sylvia Hotel, 124, 130
The Wedgewood Hotel, 124, 130
West End Guest House, 124, 130
Westin Bayshore Resort & Marina, 130
Westin Resort & Spa, 177
Yew at the Four Seasons, 124, 126

Restaurants

All India Sweets & Restaurant, 22
Alta Bistro (Whistler), 168
Araxi, 168
Aura, 168
Banana Leaf, 93
Bao Bei, 35, 93
Barb's (Victoria), 138
BBQ Bob's, 168
Bearfoot Bistro, 168–169
Bin 941 Tapas Parlour, 93
Bishop's, 93
Blue Crab Bar & Grill (Victoria), 141
Blue Water Cafe & Raw Bar, 35, 93
Boneta, 93
C, 93–94
Cactus Club Cafe, 94
Caffè Artigiano, 27
Caffè Calabria, 20
Caramba!, 169
Cardero's, 94
Chambar Belgian Restaurant, 94
CinCin, 94
Cioppino's Mediterranean Grill, 94
Coast, 94
Cru, 94–95
Cupcakes, 48
Diva at the Met, 95
Dockside, 95
Earl's, 169
Elements, 169
The Foundation, 95
Glowbal Grill and Satay Bar, 95
Go Fish!, 34, 63, 95
Gotham Steakhouse, 96
Hapa Izakaya, 96
Hon's Wun-Tun House, 96
Howe Sound Inn & Brewing Company, 134
Hy's Steakhouse, 169
Il Giardino di Umberto Ristorante, 96
Kadoya, 96
Kingyo, 9
Kirin Mandarin, 96
La Bocca, 169
Le Crocodile, 97
Maurya Indian Cuisine, 97
Mink, 41
The Mix by Ric, 169–170
Portobello, 170
Quattro, 170
Raincity Grill, 97–98
Raw Canvas, 29
RimRock Café & Oyster Bar, 170–171
Roaming Dragon, 35, 97
Salt Tasting Room, 97
Sidecut, 171
Sitar, 98
Smoking Dog, 98
Spinnakers (Victoria), 141–142
Stanley Park concession stands, 38
Sura, 98
Sushi Village, 171
Sylvia Hotel, 48
Tojo's Restaurant, 98
Trattoria Di'Umberto, 171
Veneto Tapa Lounge (Victoria), 142
Vij's, 98
West, 98
Whistler Brewhouse, 171
Yew, 98
Zog's, 171

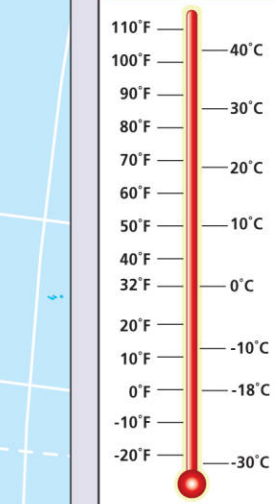
Photo **Credits**

p. viii: © Cephas Picture Library/Alamy; p. 4: © Jay Farbman; p. 5, top: © Jay Farbman; p. 5, bottom: © Jay Farbman; p. 6, top: © Photo by: Meighan Makarchuk / Courtesy Vancouver Aquarium; p. 6, bottom: © Jay Farbman; p. 7: © Remy Scalza; p. 9: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 10: © Remy Scalza; p. 11, top: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 11, bottom: © Remy Scalza; p. 12: © Jay Farbman; p. 13: © Remy Scalza; p. 15: © Jay Farbman; p. 16: © Jay Farbman; p. 17: © Jay Farbman; p. 19: © Jay Farbman; p. 20: © Remy Scalza; p. 21, top: © Remy Scalza; p. 21, bottom: © Remy Scalza; p. 22: © Jay Farbman; p. 23: © Jay Farbman; p. 26: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 27: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 28: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 30: © Remy Scalza; p. 31: © Jay Farbman; p. 33, top: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 33, bottom: © Remy Scalza; p. 34: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 35: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 37, top: © Jay Farbman; p. 37, bottom: © Jay Farbman; p. 38: © Courtesy Vancouver Park Board; p. 39, top: © Jay Farbman; p. 39, bottom: © Jay Farbman; p. 41, top: © Jay Farbman; p. 41, bottom: © Remy Scalza; p. 42: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 43: © Remy Scalza; p. 45: © candyphoto / Frommers.com Community; p. 46: © Remy Scalza; p. 47, top: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 47, bottom: © Remy Scalza; p. 48: © Remy Scalza; p. 49: © BethB / Frommers.com Community; p. 50: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 51, top: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 51, bottom: © Jay Farbman; p. 53: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 54, top: © Jay Farbman; p. 54, bottom: © Jay Farbman; p. 55: © Jay Farbman; p. 56, top: © Jay Farbman; p. 56, bottom: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 57: © Remy Scalza; p. 58: © Jay Farbman; p. 59: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 61: © Jay Farbman;

p. 62: © Remy Scalza; p. 63, top: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 63, bottom: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 64: © Remy Scalza; p. 65: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 68: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 69: © Remy Scalza; p. 70: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 71: © Remy Scalza; p. 72, top: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 72, bottom: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 73: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 75: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 76: © Remy Scalza; p. 78, top: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 78, bottom: © Remy Scalza; p. 79: © Jay Farbman; p. 81, top: © Remy Scalza; p. 81, bottom: © Jay Farbman; p. 82: © Jay Farbman; p. 83: © Remy Scalza; p. 85: © David Smith/www.interfaceimages.com; p. 86, top: © / Frommers.com Community; p. 86, bottom: © Remy Scalza; p. 87: © Remy Scalza; p. 88: © Jay Farbman; p. 89: © Photo by: John James Sherlock / Courtesy Blue Water Cafe + Raw Bar; p. 92: © Remy Scalza; p. 93: © Jay Farbman; p. 94: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 95: © Photo by: Steve Li / Courtesy CinCin, Vancouver; p. 96: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 97, top: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 97, bottom: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 98: © Courtesy Tojo's; p. 99: © Jay Farbman; p. 102: © Remy Scalza; p. 103, top: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 103, bottom: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 104: © Remy Scalza; p. 105: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 106, top: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 106, bottom: © Courtesy Four Seasons Hotel, Vancouver; p. 107: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 108: © Photo by: Fred Fung / Courtesy Republic Night Club; p. 109: © Courtesy Vancouver Bach Choir; p. 112: © Photo by David Cooper / Courtesy Arts Club Theatre Company, Vancouver; p. 113, top: © Production: Death of a Salesman / © Courtesy Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company; p. 113, bottom: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 114: © Photo by Tim Matheson / Courtesy of Theatre Under the Stars, Vancouver; p. 115: Image courtesy of Vancouver International Film Festival; p. 116, top: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 116, bottom: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 118: © Photo by Michael Slobodian / Courtesy Ballet BC; p. 119: © Photo by: Gadi Dagon / Courtesy Dancing on the Edge; p. 121: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 124: © Courtesy Pan Pacific Hotel, Vancouver; p. 125: © Courtesy Delta Vancouver Suites; p. 126: © Courtesy Four Seasons Hotel, Vancouver; p. 127: © Courtesy Hotel Le Soleil; p. 128: © Courtesy The Loden; p. 129, top: © Derek Lepper/www.dereklepper.com; p. 129, bottom: © Courtesy Opus Hotel; p. 131: © Jay Farbman; p. 133: © Gerry M. Bates / Frommers.com Community; p. 134: © All Canada Photos / Alamy; p. 135, top: © All Canada Photos / Alamy; p. 135, bottom: Jeff Thawley / Frommers.com Community; p. 137: © Jay Farbman; p. 138: © Jay Farbman; p. 140, top: © Jay Farbman; p. 140, bottom: © Jay Farbman; p. 141: Courtesy of The Fairmont Empress Hotel, Victoria; p. 142: © Jay Farbman; p. 143: © Greg Vaughn / Alamy; p. 146: © Bonny Makarewicz Photography; p. 147: © Jay Farbman; p. 148: © Bonny Makarewicz Photography; p. 149, top: © Radius Images / Alamy; p. 149, bottom: Coast Mountain Photography / Whistler Sport Legacies; p. 152: © Jay Farbman; p. 153: © Fancy / Alamy; p. 154: © Courtesy of The Fairmont Chateau Whistler; p. 155: © Jay Farbman; p. 157: © Jay Farbman; p. 158: © Photo by Gregory John Eymundson / Courtesy Scandinave Spa Whistler; p. 159: © Rolf Hicker Photography / Alamy; p. 161, top: © Courtesy The Plaza Galleries; p. 161, bottom: © Bonny Makarewicz Photography; p. 162: © Bonny Makarewicz Photography; p. 163: © Bonny Makarewicz Photography; p. 164: © Bonny Makarewicz Photography; p. 165: © Bonny Makarewicz Photography; p. 167: © Jay Farbman; p. 168: © Courtesy Aura Restaurant; p. 169: © Bonny Makarewicz Photography; p. 170, top: © Bonny Makarewicz Photography; p. 170, bottom: © Bonny Makarewicz Photography; p. 171: © Jay Farbman; p. 173: © Courtesy Pan Pacific Whistler Mountainside; p. 174: © Courtesy The Crystal Lodge & Suites; p. 175, top: Courtesy of The Fairmont Chateau, Whistler; p. 175, bottom: © Photo by: Michael Rafelson / Courtesy Four Seasons Resort, Whistler; p. 176: © Bonny Makarewicz Photography; p. 177: © Photo by: Melissa Musika / Courtesy of The Sundial Boutique Hotel, Whistler; p. 179: © Photo by: Will Epps / Courtesy Dubh Linn Gate Irish Pub; p. 180: © Bonny Makarewicz Photography; p. 181: Courtesy of Fifty Two 80 Bistro and Bar; p.182: © Bonny Makarewicz Photography; p. 183: © Remy Scalza.

METRIC CONVERSIONS

TEMPERATURE



To convert F to C:
subtract 32 and multiply by 5/9 (.555)

To convert C to F:
multiply by 1.8 and add 32

32˚F = 0˚C

LIQUID VOLUME

To convert	*multiply by*
U.S. gallons to liters	3.8
Liters to U.S. gallons	.26
U.S. gallons to imperial gallons	.83
Imperial gallons to U.S. gallons	1.20
Imperial gallons to liters	4.55
Liters to imperial gallons	.22

1 liter = .26 U.S. gallon
1 U.S. gallon = 3.8 liters

DISTANCE

To convert	*multiply by*
inches to centimeters	2.54
centimeters to inches	.39
feet to meters	.30
meters to feet	3.28
yards to meters	.91
meters to yards	1.09
miles to kilometers	1.61
kilometers to miles	.62

1 ft. = .30m ***1 mile = 1.6km***
1m = 3.3 ft. ***1km = .62 mile***

WEIGHT

To convert	*multiply by*
Ounces to grams	28.35
Grams to ounces	.035
Pounds to kilograms	.45
Kilograms to pounds	2.20

1 ounce = 28 grams
1 pound = .4555 kilogram
1 gram = .04 ounce
1 kilogram = 2.2 pounds